

**Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 11, 2017
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm Conference Call**

Present on call: George Belitsos (Chair), Jan Beran, Teresa Davidson, Sr Shirley Fineran, Taylor Houston, Brynne Howard, Jennie Kerger, Stephen O'Meara, Shirlee Reding, Bernadette Rixner, Alissa Stoehr, Maggie Tinsman, Suzanne Wright

Excused: Liz Cox, Joy Fopma, Cathy O'Keeffe, Erin Schneider

Guests: Rhonda Dean, Office of the Iowa Attorney General, Crime Victim Assistance

Taking minutes: Margaret Epplin

Call to order, roll call, and welcome guests

The meeting was called to order by Chair Belitsos who welcomed guest Rhonda Dean who will give an update on progress from Attorney General's Human Trafficking Coordinator.

Review today's agenda

Houston's report is moved up to before 3:25 p.m. Rixner noted that the Board of Directors term dates are incorrect on the latest list; Belitsos will correct to reflect terms beginning January 1 and ending December 31 and send out the correct Board list.

Review and approve Consent Agenda

Belitsos thanked Board members who joined the two Executive Committees conference calls on July 31 and August 28, and noted that the Consent Agenda motions below are from both meetings. Tinsman asked that the motion to authorize a consulting contract for Stringer include the amount. Belitsos clarified \$13 per hour and this was added to Consent Agenda motion.

- Motion to accept the August 28 Treasurer's report showing \$6,986.82 in checking and \$1,776.76 in savings.
- Motion to elect Paul Fitzgerald, Story County Sheriff, to fill the open board seat. Nomination made by Stephen O'Meara.
- Motion to authorize the chair to sign a consulting contract with Katie Stringer who will serve as Coordinator of the Central Iowa Hotel/Motel Employee Education Project. Stringer will be paid \$13 per hour plus travel time and mileage.
- Motion to approve July 10 Board meeting minutes.
- Motion to recruit a law enforcement office to fill the open seat on the BOD. Tinsman clarified this motion was from the July 31 Executive Committee meeting, and that at the August 28 Executive Committee meeting, the motion was made to elect Paul Fitzgerald to fill the position.
- Motion to authorize the chair to send a letter of support for the addition of prevention to the bill to reauthorize the Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act and to thank Sen. Grassley for his leadership for strengthening the Act.
- Motion to authorize the chair to hire a consultant to coordinate the Central Iowa Hotel Motel Project. Up to \$2,000 is budgeted for this consultant, and the source is a \$4,000 grant from the Greater DSM Community Foundation. This motion was from the July 31 Executive Committee meeting, and at the August 28 Executive Committee meeting, the motion was made to contract with Katie Stringer to fill the position.
- Motion to present the city of Johnston, Iowa with a Network Outstanding Contribution Award.
- Motion to establish a Survivor Service Provider Coordinating Committee and a Massage Business City Ordinance Anti-Trafficking Committee.

Tinsman **made motion** to accept the Consent Agenda with the addition of \$13 per hour for Katie Stringer. Stoehr **seconded**. **Motion carried** unanimously.

Review of legislation

- Ask the Iowa Supreme Court to make a rule change to add human trafficking victims to the Iowa Rape Shield Law (Tinsman)

Tinsman reported that the courts have assigned a particular Iowa Supreme Court Justice to study adding human trafficking to the Rape Shield Law. The Supreme Court Justice's staff member Gangstad will keep Tinsman informed. Tinsman does not expect results until 2018.

- Report from the Legislative Advisory Council. Meetings held the third Thursday of each month (Cox and O'Keeffe) No report as neither was present.
- Research into child abuse prevention legislation in Massachusetts & Vermont. Plans for training of Iowa school superintendents on sex abuse and sex trafficking prevention (Cox)

O'Meara reported that he and Cox are scheduled to talk on September 28. Tinsman asked if sex trafficking prevention was included in the Massachusetts and Vermont legislation. Belitsos will ask O'Keeffe and Cox. Tinsman asked if all superintendents will be invited to this training, and Belitsos reported, yes, all 350. Beran suggested that an invitation be extended to private school superintendents.

Belitsos reported that several Iowa agencies are making adoption of Erin's Law one of their top 2018 legislative priorities. These include Child and Family Policy Center, Aftercare Services Network, AMP, YSS, and Coalition for Children and Family Services.

At the same time, due to the difficulty in getting Erin's Law passed in past legislative sessions, Cox and O'Keeffe's Legislative Advisory Council is studying how MA and VT are enacting more effective laws to prevent child sexual abuse and human trafficking. The Legislative Advisory Council appears to believe there is a better chance of passing laws which are a hybrid of Erin's Law. The Legislative Advisory Council Co-Chairs will be asked to work with the agencies above, so that there is a collaborative united effort to get laws to prevent child sexual abuse and human trafficking passed in 2018.

- Massage business legislation and efforts to ask local city councils to adopt regulation 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

Tinsman reported that Bettendorf is considering the Johnston Ordinance and the Police Chief thinks it is a good preventative idea. Tinsman also reported that Davenport has had recent problems with shootings and have been too busy to study the ordinance. However, the Chief of Police will talk to the City Attorney and will visit other jurisdictions who have massage ordinance.

Rixner took the ordinance to the City Attorney who informed Rixner that the Police Chief should study and make the request for a massage ordinance to the City Council.

Belitsos reported on the Ames meeting. Belitsos, Beran, Ames ACCESS, and a licensed massage therapist attended a meeting with the Assistant Chief of Police rather than the Chief of Police Cychosz and the Assistant County Attorney. This group then made a request for a massage parlor ordinance to the City Council which assigned Chief Cychosz to study and make a recommendation. Cychosz said that the Police Department does not monitor businesses, and that this is more of an administrative function. If the Ames Police Department is tasked with enforcing a new massage parlor ordinance, they will need more manpower and additional funding. Belitsos reported that the Ames City Attorney recently resigned and this was probably a factor in the response. Belitsos and the group will continue to pursue. ISU Students Against Human Trafficking have also started to contact City Council members to urge passage of an ordinance.

Davidson reported that the number of massage parlors in Cedar Rapids, according to Rubmats.com, has recently increased from 10 to 17. Davidson has not been successful in meeting with the Chief of Police to

discuss a massage ordinance. Houston will share contacts who might assist Davidson in getting a meeting with the Chief of Police.

Report of the Research, Evaluation and Best Practice Standards Committee. Outcome of the Committee summer research project and 20 interviews (Houston)

Houston reported that everyone interviewed has been helpful and excited about the research. So far, 14 interviews have been completed with 5 more scheduled. Houston is waiting to hear back from 2 more. Interviews have been completed across the state of Iowa, though representation in southern Iowa has been lagging. There has been a good variety of subject areas of survey respondents, except for currently employed law enforcement, and Houston asks the NAHTS Board for law enforcement recommendations. Belitsos will send Houston a suggestion.

The interviews should be completed by the end of September. The data will be coded and analyzed in October and early November. The write up of the research will begin in November. Hopefully, the report will be completed and distributed to the NAHTS Board, research subjects, and others by the end of November/beginning of December. After completion and distribution, Houston will set up times for Q & As.

Houston has not yet analyzed the data, and doesn't want to guess at outcomes. A general theme is that service providers who were interviewed feel they can get help for a victim, but they would like to have more options and resources, especially for longer term therapy and housing. Many interviewed expressed that Iowa is on the right track in addressing problems with sex trafficking, but labor trafficking needs more emphasis. Those most at risk for labor trafficking have difficulties due to language barriers and the current political climate regarding immigration.

Houston reported that committee member Molly Barrett is helping draft the literature review. Reding and other members have been reading over the report and giving feedback.

Reding made a correction to the Research, Evaluation, and Best Practice Standards Committee minutes of September 1, 2017. Reding is chairing the Central Iowa Des Moines Hotel Motel Steering Committee; Cedar Rapids has its own committee chair.

Plans to establish a Survivor Service Provider Coordinating Committee. Next meeting September 12. (Belitsos and Fopma)

Fopma was absent, so Belitsos shared a conversation he recently had with Fopma regarding the Executive Committees hope that she will chair this provider group on behalf of the Network.

Fineran reported that 20 attended the first meeting with the next meeting tomorrow September 12. Belitsos sent the Board members a notice and invitation to the meeting. (Fineran is unable to attend the September 12 meeting. Davidson will attend.) The committee has 3 objectives: (1) compile a database of resources, (2) identify survivors who are looking for aftercare, and (3) identify trainings that are available for new staff or volunteers to learn best practices.

This Committee is a networking committee focusing on sharing best practices, training needs, problems, and referrals, as well as services of providers such as agencies, and churches. When the information has been gathered, the committee will share with this Board.

Belitsos asked for quick update from Fineran about the Lila Mae House which will soon open in Sioux City for 7 women survivors of sex trafficking. Fineran reported that she is still fundraising for the renovation of the donated house, and that no outside fundraising person will be hired. Belitsos thanked Fineran and asked for donations for Lila Mae House. Rixner asked if the placements were long-term only, and Fineran responded that survivors will be provided services in both short-term and long-term stays.

Progress report from Human Trafficking Coordinator in the Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Division. Final report on 2.5 day intensive trainings "Multi-Disciplinary Response to Trafficking." Release of Statewide Needs Study (Dean, will sub for Villongco)

Dean reported that the statewide needs study final report is in the hands of the Attorney General. The report will become public record after the Attorney General's office has studied it, and results can't be released prior to becoming public record. Belitsos requested to receive a PDF as soon as the report is public record, and Dean will send to Belitsos.

There were different surveys completed by victim service providers, law enforcement, community groups, and survivors of human trafficking among others. A generic result is that there is need for training for victim services providers, law enforcement, and medical professionals. Dean said the Crime Victim Assistance Division will plan trainings based on the report. Dean also reminded the Board that the Iowa Attorney General's Office has posted on its website a victim services assessment done previously by the same private research company, and the new report on human trafficking will have a format like that one.

Tinsman asked if the state report duplicates Houston's research. Dean and Houston didn't know. Houston reported that people he interviewed told him they were not interviewed for the state report. Dean noted that Houston's report is academic and the state report was private research, and Dean is curious if Houston's results will mirror the state's results.

Tinsman asked Dean if the Attorney General's Office is working on consistency in human trafficking cases among county attorneys across the state. Dean reported that trainings and twice-a-year conferences through the Attorney General's Office are held for county attorneys, and said that human trafficking is included in these. Dean also reported that if a county attorney doesn't think they can handle a human trafficking case, they can turn it over to the state. Tinsman relayed her concern that Iowa prosecutes far too few human trafficking cases. Dean said there is a group which works on prosecuting human trafficking cases, but only 4% ever go to court.

Multi-Disciplinary Response to Trafficking AKA Train the Trainers.

Villongco, the Human Trafficking Coordinator in the Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Division, provided a total of 12 "Train the Trainers" trainings across the state with attendance of victim services professionals, law enforcements, health services professionals, among others. Though attendees are not required to report re-deliveries, re-deliveries are known to have been presented in Marshalltown and Altoona. At least 4 more trainings will be presented across the state, though Dean does not know where yet; northeastern and western parts of Iowa have made requests. The trainings will be partnered with the Law Enforcement Academy.

Dean reported that the Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Division has funded 8 organizations for programs for human trafficking. They are: Braking Traffik, Iowa Safe Schools, YSS, Rape Victims Advocacy Program, Wings of Refuge, Mesquawki settlement, Iowa Day Schools, Blank Child Advocacy Center and, Truckers against Trafficking. Belitsos requested an updated list to post on the NAHTS website, and Dean agreed to send him a list. Belitsos will also add this information to next week's blog post.

Dean reported Villongco and four advocates received funding to attend a two-day training next week by Rachel Boyd at the Gems Center in NYC. Gems provides crisis services to young girls "in the life" in NYC. Belitsos asked when Villongco and the advocates will share the information they learn, and Dean said it will probably be in a newsletter report, or as a workshop at a Human Trafficking Summit to be held April 18 and 19, 2018, at the West Des Moines Sheraton.

Dean further explained that a human trafficking summit is in the planning stages, and currently 4 tracks are planned: law enforcement, prosecution/judicial, direct services, and medical professionals. The Crime Victim Assistance Division plans to bring in national speakers to talk about experiences in other states. Belitsos will post the Summit on the NAHTS calendar and asked for details which Dean will send to Belitsos.

Rixner asked about advocates for victims, and Dean said all crime victims are entitled to an advocate. Rixner asked how the advocates are assigned, and Dean reported that the national call center can connect a victim with an on-call person in their area of state who works in their area of crime (human trafficking, homicide, etc.).

Report of the Hotel/Motel Project Steering Committee, Final plans for Sept. 13, 6:00-9:00 pm Training of Trainers to be held at Des Moines Plymouth Church. Network has now signed a MOU with Nebraska Coalition. Status of separate MOU and training for Quad Cities and Eastern Iowa, Sioux City and Western Iowa, Cedar Rapids area (scheduled for September 25) and Mason City and North Central area, Council Bluffs, and Southwestern Iowa Coalition against Human Trafficking. (Reding and O'Meara)

Final plans are underway for tomorrow's Central Iowa Hotel/Motel Project 3-hour training at Plymouth Church in Des Moines on how to identify human trafficking. Reding reported that 31 will attend. This is one of several trainings to be provided throughout the state of Iowa by the Nebraska Coalition on Human Trafficking. O'Meara is leading the training effort. Belitsos expressed his positive view of the Network/Coalition partnership.

Dean reported that Lindsey Hornbaker, Victim Rights Coordinator, will attend the meeting on behalf of the Attorney General's Office.

The Nebraska Coalition has put together an 80-page manual specific to Central Iowa. Belitsos proofed the manual and copies have been printed in time for tomorrow's meeting. Belitsos said this manual is a very good resource and that the Network hopes that 4 to 5 other locations in Iowa will have the same training and will edit the manual to make it specific to the training location.

The next training is scheduled for September 25 in Cedar Rapids. On September 26, O'Meara will meet in Davenport with O'Keeffe to discuss bringing the training package to the Iowa 61 corridor, which includes the Dubuque area. Wright is invited to this meeting.

Belitsos asked Davidson for further details about the September 25 training in Cedar Rapids. Davidson reported that this training is focused on the hotels along I 380 from Cedar Rapids to Iowa City. Each attendee is asked to train at least 3 hotels in the next 6 months. About 35 have signed up for the training, including 13 employees of Cedar Valley Friends of the Family in Waterloo, an agency which serves 14 counties in northeastern Iowa. Due to the increased size of attendance, the location of the training has been changed to Living Hope Wesleyan Church, 1500 Boysen Rd, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Davidson said that funding for the training is inadequate, and she is seeking corporate sponsors. Davidson's husband is providing dinner for all participants.

Belitsos thanked Davidson, O'Meara, and Reding for their work. O'Meara reported that he has signed a contract with Sioux City for an upcoming training, and other contracts with other areas are in the early stages.

Press Conference with Governor Reynolds, on Tuesday Sept. 19 @ 10:30am. Network awards to also be presented to City of Johnston (Belitsos)

On September 19, at 10:30 a.m., Governor Kim Reynolds will hold a press conference to announce the Network's statewide effort to train hotel/motel workers on how to identify human trafficking starting with Central Iowa. Belitsos has written a proposed script for the Governor and Lt Governor Gregg. All NAHTS Board members are invited to attend. Belitsos and O'Meara will also speak. NAHTS will give an award at the press conference to the City of Johnston for the Johnston massage parlor ordinance. Central Iowa law enforcement professionals have also been invited and will meet with Belitsos after the press conference.

Review recent blog posts

Belitsos reported that he has increased his effort on blog postings and is getting good response. There are now nearly 1,000 subscribers. Belitsos has posted:

- (1) A call for volunteer hotel/motel education trainers.
- (2) Important news and requested actions (information on federal legislation). Human trafficking conference, brochures and flyers for 3 conferences. Info from Attorney General's office concerned with changes in federal rules regarding child pornography.

(3) An article showing how the Iowa State University Student Network Against Human Trafficking is making a difference. The ISU club has offered to help any other universities that want to start their own student club to fight human trafficking.

Startup of a Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/IowaNAHTS> Updated Network Brochure

NAHTS now has a Facebook page. The transcript of a WOI program presented by Davidson, was posted on Facebook and had 140 hits in one day. The program has been shared statewide through Iowa Public Radio.

Belitos reported that he has made additions and changes to the Network brochure. The new brochure adds the word “Slavery” to the name of this Board. Two other additions are the statewide hotel/motel training effort and information about local cities regulating massage parlors. Belitos will email a PDF of the revised brochure to all NAHTS Board members. He will also have 500 color brochures printed.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

The next Executive Committee will be held Monday, Sept. 25, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. The Board of Directors will meet Monday, October 9, from 2:30 to 4 p.m.