

Iowa NAHT Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Present: Dr. George Belitsos, Ruth Buckels, Lauren Camp, Teresa Davidson, Dr. Shannon Findlay, Shirley Fineran, Lori Freudenberg, Alyse Hardin, Kim Hilby, Alka Khanolkar, Katie Kyker, Brenda Long, Dr. Joseph Moravec, Shirlee Reding, Jessica Rohrs, Maggie Tinsman, Mike Tupper

Excused Absence: Bernadette Rixner

Absent: Roxanne Risberg

Guests: Kevin Winker (Outgoing coord of DPS office to combat trafficking), Pat Waymire (Incoming coord of DPS office to combat trafficking)

Technology Consultant:

I. Call to order (Belitsos)

Belitsos declared a quorum and began the meeting at 2:32 PM. Belitsos thanked Dr. Joe for being our zoom host and thanked the guests from the IA Department of Public Safety for their participation. Belitsos introduced Marielle Roth, Maggie Tinsman's new assistant taking the place of Pati. Roth will be taking minutes and Belitsos asked Board members to state their names as they speak today. Puja is on the Consent Agenda and was introduced as a new Technology Consultant with the network. Puja expressed that she is going to Iowa State majoring in management information systems and was born in Nepal. Her family was kicked out of Nepal due to a civil war. The United Nations resettled her family in the US. She and her family moved to the US in 2009. She has interest in helping limit human trafficking in Iowa and she wants to help spread the word because many people in Iowa are unaware of human trafficking. Belitsos shared that an ISU student helping with technology, Facebook and graphic design, Mason, received a full time job as a computer programmer. Puja will take most of his workload and approval of her contract is on the consent agenda.

II. Opening and progress report from Garden Gate Ranch founder and director (Long)

Brenda Long was not present at the start of today's meeting to give her progress report on Garden Gate Ranch.

III. Presentation and progress report from Department of Public Safety's Office to Combat Human Trafficking. Introduction of new coordinator, Pat Waymire, for the Office to Combat Human Trafficking. (Kevin Winker)

Kevin Winker has announced his retirement from the Department of Public Safety and Belitsos thanked him for his diligent work in the fight against human trafficking and stated it has been a

pleasure to work with him and wished him well in his

retirement. Winker introduced Pat Waymire who will now take over for him as coordinator for the Office of Human Trafficking. Winker stated it takes both the private and public sector to make changes happen. They are looking to continue to have a meaningful impact on this issue. They are continuing their efforts at the DPS and shared that they have a new legislative liaison to help them build framework around the Office to Combat Human Trafficking but also help with hotel/motel training. DPS is exploring website options, online training options, gathering information to address the training requirements. It will likely be into next year before they are looking at certifying training, so they can develop criteria which sets the same standard across the board. They want to be ahead of the January 2022 training mandate deadline and they are making progress so that hotels and motels don't experience any hiccups in getting certified.

Waymire stated that in regard to the 2020 annual report that it was submitted in late October to the legislature. Waymire thanked Winker for his work. He stated that there are four cases of sex trafficking highlighted in the 2020 Annual Report which will be distributed to the NAHT Board.

Trends that they are seeing on how they receive tips are sent in through the Division of Intelligence by Polaris and local and state law enforcement agencies regarding both labor and sex trafficking which occur in Iowa. Trends are showing that from 2013-2017 sex trafficking increased. There was a decline in 2018, then back up in 2019. Since January of 2020 only 20 individuals have been charged under Iowa Human Trafficking Statute with no convictions reported. This does not include federal cases. In 2020 there has been a decrease in reporting due to Covid.

Highlighted in the 2020 annual report is the new bill house file 2259 the hotel motel training legislation and a description and responsibilities of what that bill entails. Also, highlighted on a graph is the reporting done within the last 3 years. They are seeing more partnerships with local law enforcement.

There is significant support from the US Attorney's Office to take these cases to federal court, where they can get more prison time. There are 12-20 defendants currently. DPS has never turned down a human trafficking case. Every tip that they receive, an intelligence analyst does a work up and outreach to local law enforcement is done. Arrests are up and indictments are up. Steady increase in arrests since 2013. NAHT has created awareness which has increased reporting.

In the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy you cannot graduate without training in human trafficking.

Tinsman asked about the Hotel/Motel training planned to be created by DPS itself. Belitsos

asked if this DPS created training was necessary since the NAHT is moving ahead with video training that will be free to all hotels and motels. Winker stated that employees could either go to the Network for training or the DPS State training as long as the training has been certified. Winker stated that the website would include all resources and options so that hotels and motels can choose for themselves. They will include both the NAHT's training and DPS training. Winker continued that the DPS has \$15,000 earmarked in state funding for production of a hotel and motel training. He thanked the NAHT for supporting the DPS request for \$150,000 for implementation of the hotel and motel legislation.

Dr. Joe stated that they have been working with 4 coalitions in the state to develop a hotel/motel best practice training video. An NAHT video will be produced. Dr. Joe asked how the development of the training was coming along and if they were developing an advisory council on the training component. Kevin stated that the development was coming along and an advisory council on the training component has not been discussed. Kevin stated that he wanted to be operating on the same page, and this is a constantly evolving discussion to be transparent with our organization and the hotel/motel businesses as well.

Ruth Buckels asked how tips are being received and how the traffickers at the truck stops are being dealt with? She stated that she is aware that some traffickers were hitting truck stops a night. Winker stated that local law enforcement is responding to all calls relating to trafficking. As far as the truck stops go, specific information needs to be relayed to them. The DOT has partnered with Truckers Against Trafficking, but is unaware of where that program is at. Belitsos stated that truck stop training has declined due to Covid, however they are still displaying rescue stickers. Winker stated if something is happening at a truck stop it is best to call 911 because the truckers won't be there long because Polaris takes time to put their tips together.

Belitsos thanked Winker and Waymire for their time and information and they thanked the organization for the impact they have had on Human Trafficking. The NAHT has had a major impact on increasing awareness in Iowa and this is stated in the 2020 report from DPS.

IV. Approval of consent agenda (Belitsos)

- Motion to approve the November 10th meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors
- Motion to approve the Acting Treasurer's report for November 2020.
- Motion to elect 2021 board officers (one year term) Chair, Belitsos, Vice Chair, Davidson, Secretary, Tinsman, and Treasurer (vacant).
- Motion to authorize the chair to order the printing of 2,500 more English language rescue stickers.
- Motion to nominate and elect the following as NAHT officers (one year term begins on February 1st, 2021): Chair - George Belitsos, Vice-chair - Teresa Davidson, Secretary - Maggie Tinsman, and Treasurer - Vacant.
- Motion to authorize the chair to sign a technology consultant agreement with Puja Dhungel.

Mason Thomas has taken a new full time job as a computer programmer.

- Motion to approve changes to the NAHT policy entitled clarification of Mission and Action steps.
- Motion to accept with regret the resignation of board member Roxanne Riesberg.
- Motion to approve the nomination of Stacy West (a survivor now on the staff of Change Interrupted) for a 2021 Outstanding Anti-Trafficking Service Award.

Belitsos asked if anyone had any questions on the consent agenda. Dr. Joe stated that in the Nov. 10th minutes itself NAHT is not capitalized and wished for it to be corrected. Belitsos called for a vote and declared that the consent agenda **passed unanimously**.

V. Anti-trafficking resolution to be sent to Rotary International (RI) from Iowa Rotary District 6000. If approved by RI, this will be the first step in RI engaging 1.2 million Rotarians in 90 countries in the fight to end modern day slavery. (Khanolkar)

Alka Kanolkar stated her Rotary district 6000 board voted to send the motion to Rotary International. They are working on sending it to Rotary International to meet the deadline. A problem is that the votes should be made in person, and if there is no challenge it should be good to go and be presented as RI Legislation. She heard from a past RI director and he states human trafficking is going in the right direction.

Belitsos thanked Khamolkar for her leadership on this. He stated it is hard to have gatherings where you can be there in person. Khamolkar stated she will meet the challenges as they come.

This motion reads as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of Rotary International to encourage all Rotarians to become more familiar with the growing problem of modern-day slavery, to be vigilant and report suspicious activity and to work towards solutions to end modern-day slavery in all its forms. Be it further resolved to encourage Rotary Clubs around the world to engage in projects to protect all victims from hunger, neglect, abuse and all forms of exploitation and modern-day slavery.

VI. Preparation for January 14th governor's proclamation signing of Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and presentation of Outstanding Anti-Trafficking Service Award presentations. Begin to approach and schedule local city council and board of supervisors proclamations. (Belitsos)

Belitsos shared that in the Board packet there is a new flyer which states at the top that all Board members and advocates are required to wear masks at the January 14th event. Belitsos consulted with the governor's staff and they have not made a final decision on whether or not to start the legislative session on January 11th 2021. The Covid holiday spike is high in our state and mid-January may be an even worse time. Belitsos stated the proclamation will be signed no matter what. Maggie asked who the 5 award recipients were. Belitsos stated that all 5 nominated awardees have been approved by the Board. Stacy West was the fifth awardee and was on today's Board consent agenda. Stacey West is an employee at Chains Interrupted. Theresa Davidson shared that Stacey West has been through some incredible things in her life. Stacey ran away, however her parents did not notice for a year. Stacey has been instrumental in helping other people and is an incredible human being. Belitsos shared NAHT Board member Ruth Buckels was nominated and approved by the board. Ruth has been a foster parent for 8 girls who have been trafficked, she is a licensed therapist and incredibly involved with law enforcement and rescues. Ruth has led Teens Against Human Trafficking who had over 400 girls who had self-identified as being trafficked. The Iowa City Law Enforcement Task Force, the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District and the West Liberty Rotary Club are the other awardees. Belitsos said he would forward the press release to the Board that has all 5 awardees described.

VII. Plans for the Iowa Freedom Summit (scheduled as a statewide zoom call on Tuesday, January 12th 11:30am-1pm). Panel members include: Maggie Tinsman, Shannon Findlay MD, Alyse Hardin, Jessica Rohrs, Heather Brown, and Teresa Davidson. (Freudenberg)

Lauri Freudenberg stated she has 6 Board members who will serve as panelists and is tweaking the flyer and asked Belitsos to send that to the group and asked each member to send it to their contacts and to send it to local media. Belitsos thanked Freudenberg for taking initiative on this. The NAHT will be sending out a press release. If people can't attend live, it will also be recorded. Dr. Joe stated that the Summit is a great way to increase awareness, funds, interest, and enthusiasm, and he hopes it will be an annual event. Freudenberg is putting the flyer in final form and it also will be displayed on many social platforms including the NAHT facebook page.

VIII. Report from Legislative Advocacy Committee and review 5 priorities for 2021 (see below). Motion to approve consulting contract for \$5,000 with AKA Legal Consulting. Progress report on raising \$5,000 for Angela Davis for government relations and lobbying services. (Tinsman) NAHT 5 Ranked Priorities for 2021

1. The NAHT requests that the Iowa legislature adopt a Safe Harbor Law that protects minors against prosecution for any crimes committed while they were trafficked. 31 states have already passed Safe Harbor Laws.

2. The NAHT requests that the Iowa legislature adopt legislation to enact the expungement of crimes committed by adult survivors which occurred while being trafficked.

3. The NAHT requests that the Iowa legislature adopt legislation requiring schools to provide child sex abuse awareness and prevention for students, parents, and school employees. The NAHT is collaborating with Prevent Child Abuse Iowa and both organizations will work for passage of this bill.

4. The NAHT requests that the Iowa legislature adopt legislation to add human trafficking victims to Iowa's Rape Shield Law. Iowa's Rape Shield Law (Rule 5.412 Sexual abuse cases; relevance of victim's past behavior) does not currently extend rape shield protection to victims of sex trafficking. Iowa should enact laws that provide protections for Iowa sex trafficking victims in the trial process.

5. The NAHT requests that the Iowa legislature adopt legislation to create uniform statewide local law enforcement authority regulating massage businesses. The American Massage Business Association, Iowa Chapter has initiated this proposed legislation. If adopted, this would allow local law enforcement in all jurisdictions to monitor massage businesses in order to root out illicit activities such as sex trafficking. The bill would mandate that law enforcement in all cities and towns take on this responsibility in addition to the 23 cities which currently have anti trafficking massage ordinances.

Tinsman started by reporting that \$5000 has been raised by the Legislative Committee for Angela Davis, the consulting Legislative advocate. Tinsman asked for a motion to approve the MOU.

Belitsos clarified we are looking at the MOU from AKD Legal and the NAHT standard consulting contract. Morovic suggested we look at the NAHT contract in more detail as an Executive Committee and then bring it to the Board. Tinsman stated Angela should be included in that meeting.

A board member had a question about what Angela's firm does. Tinsman responded that Angela works on our priorities and contacts legislators, also contacts legislators regarding money put into hotel/motel training. She does a lot of research and works as an advocate talking to different committees and legislators so we can get traction on the importance of human trafficking.

Belitsos proposed that we move ahead with the MOU this year and hold the NAHT contract until 2022. The NAHT contract has a list of duties and more accountability. Morovic stated that Angela's work and value she is affording the Network is worth \$30,000. Morovic commended Angela on her services. Morovic so moved that we accept the AKD Consulting contract.

Belitsos stated it has been moved by Morovic and seconded by Tinsman. Belitsos called a vote which **passed unanimously**.

Tinsman stated that she met with the Braking Traffik Advisory Committee of Family Resources and the Network's legislative priorities were discussed. That committee supported the safe harbor law and the expungement of crimes committed by survivors. The committee asked Nicole Durbin, the CEO of Family Resources, to take it to the Board for their approval. The Legislative Advocacy Committee will meet tomorrow to discuss priorities. She asked for the NAHT's help in distributing the list of 5 priorities to your legislators and explain them to them briefly. If the legislator will be a sponsor let her know at 563-359-3624, or contact legislative advocate Angela Davis 515-417-1418. Tinsman stated that "You are Important, please help us stamp out human trafficking". Morovic asked Tinsman to send out the list of all legislators' contact information and wording for an email to be sent to legislators like she did last year, and she agreed to do so.

Belitsos said Bernadette Rixer could not be at today's meeting, so she is an excused absence, but she has expressed concerns about the last priority regarding massage business regulation. If we have law enforcement monitor the massage business, how will that be done because wording is not clear? Tinsman stated that all concerns should be directed to Angela Davis. Tinsman stated that when the reversed bill comes in from Angela it will be forwarded to the board.

Shannon Findlay stated concerns with the hotel/motel bill as well. Tinsman stated that local control will not be eroded, but if there are further concerns to speak directly to Angela Davis. Tinsman suggested Findlay call her to discuss the proposed hotel/motel bill.

IX. Report from Fundraising Committee. Ask if board members have solicited their service club, church, temple, or community foundation. Inform prospective donors that Covid-19 has resulted in a worldwide increase in the number of trafficked victims, especially children. Outcome of December 1st Giving Tuesday NAHT fundraising. (Kyker, Freudenberg, Forsyth & Belitsos)

Katie Kyker stated that we had a successful Giving Tuesday fundraiser which made over \$1000, which does not include Facebook donations yet. Kyker asked to reach out to service organizations such as Rotary Clubs to get them on board for NAHT grants. She encouraged the Board to reach out to local clubs and Katie stated she would be happy to help with the grant application. Maggie Tinsman stated she will be speaking on Human Trafficking on February 8th to a rotary club and will ask for donations. Belitsos thanked everyone who helped raise money. All of the board members have donated at least once this year and some have donated twice. Thanks again and again.

X. Update from Survivor Service Provider Collaboration. Plans for next quarterly Zoom

meeting. (Hardin, Buckels, Rohrs & Davidson)

Jessica Rohrs stated that their next meeting is on 12/15 from 10am-Noon. If anyone did not attend the Zoom link, let her know. The agenda includes a presentation from Friends of the Family who received funds to house survivors of labor and sex trafficking and YSS who also received the same federal grant which will be implemented within the next 6 months.

Jessica Rohrs stated how the effects of COVID-19 is continuing to negatively impact provider residential services. She stated that she has been hearing from multiple service providers because of restrictions being put in place, staff being sick and hearing about how COVID is affecting their services.

Belitsos stated he is grateful for Rohrs leadership of the Collaboration and for bringing the community together. It is important to continue to provide a forum during such a stressful time for services.

XI. Report from the Evaluation/Research and Best Practices Committee. (Moravec & Reding)

● Hotel/Motel Training Subcommittee

- Addressing/Ending the Demand Subcommittee**
- Best Practice for Survivor Services Subcommittee**
- Collaboration with the US Institution on Human Trafficking**

Morovic stated that there are three tremendous subcommittees that he has been working with and wants the chairs from each committee to report.

Morovic stated it has been awesome working with the four trafficking regional coalitions. He thanked all groups and stated he had a great time sharing. He stated he will get the minutes out as soon as possible. After everyone was voted on the hotel model video project to be produced a consultant named Terry Pounds. He is a professional videographer from Minnesota, about zeroing in on gripping emotions and sensing a larger narrative of what is happening in human trafficking. Terry gave Morovic a figure of \$1500 to put the video together, which was a rough estimate. Working on a script and different pieces, they want all the coalitions to be a part of it, survivors will be a part of the video, prosecutor, law enforcement, healthcare anyone who interests with hotel motel training.

Reding asked that the \$15000 for video in the DPS budget be explained. Belitsos stated that if DPS gets \$150,000 from the legislative, they will use \$15,000 to produce their own hotel/motel video. Belitsos stated DPS would put NAHT's training on the website, along with DPS. Reding stated it should be done in collaboration with the NAHT training video. This looks to her like a duplication of effort.

XII. Belitsos called for comments since it is not 4pm adjournment time yet.

Morovic stated he wanted to look into a program for Iowa to adopt to address the demand and buyers. Belitsos said that he will add this to the NAHT strategic plan goals for 2021.

Freundberg stated the Clinton anti-trafficking coalition and is going to propose the Trafficking Free Zone with four different communities, approach the mayors, city government, healthcare providers and schools.

Fineran stated that Lila May's house is now open for women 18 and over, for referrals for sex trafficking victims.

Shirlee Reding stated that the Des Moines coalition will be having a training on 01/28th on Racism and Human Trafficking. Belitsos asked for a flier and Reding stated she would have it by the end of the week. He stated it would be good to announce the event by Friday in the blog. Belitsos stated he would put it in the blog which is devoted to Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention month.

Belitsos stated the next meeting would be on Tuesday, February 9th at 2:30 pm.

Belitsos thanked everyone for joining and wished them a safe and joy filled holiday. He stated we are faced with many global problems, but we are one united team fighting enslavement. The most vulnerable people are being lured into trafficking in these desperate times, and thanks to board members all for making a positive difference.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.