

**Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (NAHT)  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
January 17, 2019, noon to 1:30  
Iowa Senate Room 116, Iowa State Capitol Building**

**Present:** Tricia Barto (Proxy for Roxanne Riesberg), George Belitsos (Retiring Chair), Lauren Camp (new), Jonathan Causey (new), Liz Cox (new Chair), Angela Kenyon Davis, Joy Fopma, Alyse Hardin, Taylor Houston (new Vice Chair), Jennie Kerger (new Treasurer), Katie Kyker, Elizabeth Quinn (proxy for Paul Fitzgerald), Shirlee Reding, Bernadette Rixner, Maggie Tinsman (Secretary), Suzanne Wright, Tish Young (new)

**Excused:** Sr Shirley Fineran, Alissa Stoehr, Mike Tupper

**Speakers:** Gretchen Brown-Waech, Iowa Attorney General, Human Trafficking Coordinator  
Terry Cowman, Coordinator of IA DPS Office to Combat Human Trafficking  
David Lorenzen, IA DOT and Truckers Against Trafficking  
Jessica Rohrs, Iowa Victim Services Call Center

**Audience Guests:** Jan **Beran** former NAHT Treasurer, Vicki **Comegys** Catch Des Moines, Carol **Cook** Tri-State Coalition Against HT, Alexis **Costello** MMU Students for Anti Violence, Teresa **Davidson** former NAHT Board member, Kara **Johnson** ISU NAHT, Aaron **Kerr**, Valarie **Kimm**, Peg **Kreutner** Chains Interrupted, Nancy **McCarthy** Tri-State Coalition Against HT, Auston **McLain** Braking Traffik, Joe **Nickell** IA DOT MVE, Linda **Olson** Chains Interrupted, Sharon **Overmann** Chains Interrupted, Rae **Rochester** Chains Interrupted, Sybil **Schroeder** Set Free River View Dubuque, Karen **Seler**, Sarah **Shambrook** Marsy's Law for IA, Bev **Shipley** Wings of Refuge, Steffani **Simbric** IA LE Academy, Julie **Sparks** SS John & Paul Parish, Laura **Teske** Wings of Refuge, Sia **Turner** ISU NAHT, Blake **Wittrock** IDOT MVE, Jeanne **Warren** Hotel Motel Training

**Taking Minutes:** Margaret Epplin

### **Annual Board Photo**

The 17 directors in attendance posed for an annual NAHT Board photo which will be posted on the Network website.

### **Call to Order and Roll Call. Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Belitsos. Roll call was taken. Board members introduced themselves. Guests in the audience introduced themselves

### **Review today's Agenda. (all)**

The Agenda was accepted with no changes.

### **Review outcome of today's Governor's proclamation signing and Outcoming Anti-Trafficking Service Awardees (all)**

There was a great turnout of just over 250 allies and advocates in attendance at today's proclamation signing. There were 3 inspiring speeches. The 5 award winners have all made an impact in the campaign to stop human trafficking in Iowa. Belitsos will write up a summary of the 3 presentations and 5 awardees for the Facebook page, blog post, and website.

### **Executive Committee meeting report and approval of Consent Agenda**

- Motion to approve December 17, 2018, meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors

- Motion to accept \$4,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines for the Central Iowa Hotel/Motel Project
- Motion to nominate and elect the following for NAHT Board Officers (one-year term begins on February 1, 2019) Chair, Liz Cox; Vice Chair, Dr. Taylor Houston; Secretary, Maggie Tinsman; and Treasurer, Jennie Kerger, and Dr. George Belitsos, Immediate Past Chair
- Motion to approve the January 7, 2019 Treasurer's report
- Motion to approve Iowa NAHT Rescue Sticker volunteer distribution instructions and consent/location form
- Motion to approve revised By-Laws
- Motion to elect Lauren Camp, Equal Justice Works Trafficking Attorney for IA Legal Aid, to the Network Board
- Motion to approve the 2018 Strategic Plan progress report and 2019 plan goals

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

**Progress report from the Human Trafficking Coordinator of the Attorney General's Division of Victim Services (Brown-Waech)**

Belitsos introduced Brown-Waech and thanked her for her collaboration and support of the NAHT mission. Brown-Waech began her position with the Iowa Attorney General's Office on July 18, 2018. Since that time, a team from the LE Academy and the Dept of Public Safety is working with other state professionals to map out the existing scope of human trafficking services, identify the gaps in services, and lay out a strategy for addressing those gaps. Brown-Waech has adopted a focus on strategies to enhance both labor and sex trafficking services. Brown-Waech distributed a trifold card to all present. This card contains important information for first responders (LE, firefighters, EMS professionals) and is also available for service providers.

Brown-Waech discovered a missing link between the National Human Trafficking Hotline and victim services and has acted to make the connection between appropriate people.

Brown-Waech shared with the NAHT Board an updated, color-coded map of human trafficking cases that have been prosecuted in Iowa, along with a companion spreadsheet about each of the cases. The Board asked for a copy of the map and spreadsheet which Brown-Waech will send to Belitsos who will email it to the entire NAHT Board. Belitsos will also write up the Brown-Waech progress and send it to the 1,082 blog post subscribers along with the map.

Brown-Waech has reached about 1,600 people through trainings and presentations.

**Progress report from the Department of Public Safety Office to Combat Human Trafficking (Cowman)**

Belitsos introduced Cowman and thanked him for taking the time to participate in today's NAHT meeting. Belitsos also reported that Commissioner Roxanne Ryan retired January 2, and Belitsos has sent a congratulations to the new Commissioner Stephen Bayens. Belitsos has also written to Ryan to thank her for her commitment to fighting human trafficking and cooperation with the Network.

Cowman reported that it is challenging for law enforcement (LE) to find victim services when responding to human trafficking cases. Sometimes there are also language barriers. Sometimes a search warrant hasn't been issued.

The Iowa Dept of Public Safety is working to educate prosecutors and first responders. Cowman thanked the NAHT Board for doing an excellent job informing the general public about human trafficking. Now LE needs to get more training so that officers can help on the local level. Cowman noted that he has also seen some of the worst trafficking offenders receive the least sentence due to lack of education of prosecutors.

The Dept of Public Safety has sent three proposed changes to Iowa human trafficking laws to the Governor's office for endorsement. These changes were proposed by Ryan prior to retirement:

- 1) Restitution. Add option for reimbursement of victims for cost of recovery services for up to 10 years after conviction
- 2) Licensing and identification of illicit massage parlors and cosmetology establishments
- 3) Provide criminal penalty for leasing or renting an office/building which is used for human trafficking. This would include hotels

Cox noted that some industries will be opposed to these regulations. Cowman replied that making a proposal allows people the chance to debate the issue on both sides. Rixner noted that people from legit massage businesses have said that if you regulate the massage businesses or close an illicit one, they will just re-open as reflexology or hand massage or body therapy, anything not covered under the restrictions. Cowman replied that "we have to start somewhere."

Rixner asked how to get Cowman's annual report, and Cowman said it is on the Dept of Public Safety website. Belitsos has the link and will send it to the NAHT Board and also to NAHT blog post subscribers.

Tinsman noted that NAHT is encouraging local city ordinances, not one statewide massage business law. Rixner noted that the state has not done a good job of investigation and enforcement. Cowman noted that there are some statewide laws--for example, an offender must report real addresses--and without statewide rules, there is a lot of local dysfunction.

Belitsos noted that there was a legislative hearing this afternoon to increase state control and drop local control over massage businesses. Towns with massage ordinances would lose their right to enforce. This is a mistake, and Belitsos recommends that the Network register as opposed to the bill. Belitsos sent a link to this massage therapy bill to all the Board members last Monday.

Davis asked if training of prosecutors is still going on. Cowman replied "no" and the Dept of Public Safety needs to make some progress. Davis said NAHT has done a great job at the local level doing education and offered that NAHT would work with Cowman to do education of prosecutors. Houston added that training for prosecution in Georgia and teaching the county prosecutor how to prosecute human trafficking cases made a difference, but then the judges didn't know how to handle the cases. Cowman said judicial training is important.

Davis discussed restitution from the federal level and noted that education is required so that this will be enforced on the local and state level.

Tinsman noted that LE Academy is providing human trafficking training to new recruits but not to chiefs and executives of departments who make decisions on how human trafficking is handled, and, in some cases, Tinsman believes sheriffs are better trained than chiefs. Simbric said that she is working with chiefs across the state. Quinn informed that she provided a 2-hour human trafficking training at winter school for sheriffs and chiefs.

Reding, asked if Train the Trainer is still going on. Simbric reported that these sessions are currently not being held. Simbric made inquiries to national groups, such as the Blue Campaign, to hold the trainings,

but has not been successful. Simbric believes if Iowa can't get a training from a national group, Iowa should come up with their own training. Simbric is making a list of possible train the trainer speakers.

### **Presentation by DOT and Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) (MVE Chief Lorenzen)**

Belitsos introduced Lorenzen and commended him as an honoree of the Outstanding Anti-Trafficking Service Award given earlier today. Lorenzen explained that TAT is in partnership with Polaris, and distributed a handout showing 2,250 calls made to the national Polaris hotline by truckers resulting in 612 likely human trafficking cases involving 1,133 victims. 48.5% involved minors. Another handout showed that 6 states have adopted the IA MVE model in whole, while 34 states have adopted the IA MVE in part, and that 8 states mandate TAT training for entry level CDL holders.

Iowa has a team of 6 officers who work to spread the word about human trafficking statewide. All Iowa truck stops with 25 spaces or more have been identified. The officers visit with truckers at these truck stops. The officers attend trucker events throughout the state of Iowa and sometimes bring the TAT Freedom Trailer.

Iowa has several large carriers, including TMC and CRST, who train all new hires in identifying human trafficking. Lorenzen reported that he has received phenomenal cooperation from Iowa trucking companies and rest stops.

Tinsman remarked that she noticed a lot of cameras at the Walcott truck stop, which is in her region. Lorenzen said that the Walcott truck stop has been very cooperative. Walcott has 965 truck spaces and doesn't want human trafficking happening there.

Reding said her friend told her that her son, an Uber driver, thinks he has had fares from people who are involved in sex trafficking. Lorenzen said that it is hard to educate Uber drivers because it is hard to identify them. There is a lot of turnover. Lorenzen further added information about the upcoming NCAAs which will bring a lot of people to Des Moines, including some who are taking advantage of the situation for sex trafficking. The IA DOT is conducting a mass blitz campaign to hotels, bars, and taxi and bus drivers, including DART, to inform about them about identifying suspected human trafficking. Lorenzen will meet with Des Moines airport staff to talk about sports travelers coming into and out of the airport. Rixner suggested NAHT Board members give Rescue Stickers to Uber drivers.

Truckers against Trafficking has a free app with all the contact information needed to report human trafficking. Truckers are educated about how to use this app.

TAT is asking companies to have corporate anti-trafficking policies.

Belitsos has written the Iowa DOT to ask permission to distribute the Iowa Human Trafficking Rescue Stickers in truck stops and Iowa rest areas. He asked Lorenzen if a decision has been made. Lorenzen is working with IA DOT regarding posting Rescue Stickers in Iowa rest areas and believes that Rescue Stickers will be allowed, at least in some location at the rest areas. Lorenzen will let Belitsos know soon of the final decision, but Lorenzen will pick up 400 stickers today.

### **Report from the Legislative Advocacy Committee and Discuss priorities for 2019 legislative session. Local City Council and Board of Supervisor Proclamations. Today's visits with legislators (Davis and Tinsman)**

Belitsos thanked co-chairs Tinsman and Davis for all the work they did to come up with legislative priorities. Davis reported that she will track all the legislation that comes up on the HT and LT issues and will watch the progress of the Mandatory Reporter changes. Davis emphasized that NAHT must be cohesive at the grassroots level and give the legislators the same message and same talking points at the proper time.

Tinsman reported feedback from legislators who recognized that a large group of NAHT allies had been talking to legislators today. Tinsman emphasized that repetition is important. Tinsman noted that anti-human trafficking is a bipartisan issue and legislators need to be told over and over by constituents that it is important to pass anti-human trafficking legislation.

Both Tinsman and Davis are watching what the Mandatory Reporter Workgroup recommends and hope it's on its way to becoming a bill. Davis reported that, unfortunately, there is currently no draft bill and no sponsor. Tinsman emphasized that the sponsor must be from the majority party, Republican. Tinsman and Davis will keep working to find a sponsor. Belitsos noted that hospitals are opposed to changes in the Mandatory Reporter training.

Belitsos and Tinsman asked that information on legislation be sent to Davis, who will, in turn, send updates to the full NAHT Board.

### **Presentation on Iowa Victim Services Call Center and 2018 sex and labor trafficking calls (Rohrs)**

Belitsos introduced Rohrs and mentioned that at the request of Rohrs, the NAHT included the Iowa Call Center's phone number along with the national number on the Iowa Human Trafficking Rescue Stickers.

Rohrs explained what Victim Services Call Center does and that the call center is funded through IA AG Office. Staff are physically present at the Call Center and take calls from victims of all types of crimes, 24-7. In addition, about 35 organizations roll their lines to the Call Center outside their work hours.

Last FY ending June 2018, the Call Center received 240 duplicated calls under the category of human trafficking. Since opening in 2015, they have received 528 duplicated human trafficking calls. This fiscal year, beginning July 2018, the sex and labor trafficking calls have been recorded separately. There have been 45 unduplicated human trafficking calls, 6 labor trafficking and 39 sex trafficking.

Rohrs distributed a map showing where the sex and labor trafficking calls come from.

### **Startup of Rescue Sticker Project and plans for statewide distribution (Belitsos and Houston)**

Belitsos explained that the national organization, In Our Backyard, did not want to put the Iowa hotline number on their stickers, so NAHT printed their own Iowa Rescue Stickers with both state and national phone numbers on the sticker.

Belitsos announced that today is the kickoff of the new sticker project. The Rescue Stickers were available for all NAHT Board members to pick up. Several regional human trafficking coalitions took 100s of stickers and DHS picked up stickers for distribution to offices statewide. Lorenzen took 400 for the IA DOT. Houston explained that one-sheet instructions come with the stickers. The instructions require that the person distributing stickers get a signature of consent at each location, record where the stickers are distributed, and return the list of locations of distribution to Houston. It is OK to distribute stickers to any convenience stores, except the large multi-state chain stores such as Kum and Go and Casey's, which will be covered by In Our Backyard.

Houston explained that his Mt Mercy University student group will look at data before and after distribution to see if there is an increase in calls showing that the stickers are having an impact. They will keep a record of where and to whom the stickers are being distributed. Via the February 5 blog post, Belitsos will send out a call for volunteers to distribute stickers statewide.

Meeting adjourned.

New Executive Committee meeting is Monday, January 28, 2019, 2:30 - 4:00 PM (conference call)

Next Board of Directors meeting is Monday, February 18, 2019, 2:30 - 4:00 PM (conference call)