

**Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (NAHT)
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 21, 2018, 2:30 to 4 p.m.
Conference Call**

Present: George Belitsos (Chair), Jan Beran (Treasurer), Alyse Egan, Teresa Davidson (leave early), Sr Shirley Fineran, Paul Fitzgerald, Taylor Houston, Jennie Kerger, Stephen O'Meara, Elizabeth Quinn (proxy for Fitzgerald), Shirlee Reding (3:15), Bernadette Rixner, Alissa Stoehr, Maggie Tinsman (Secretary), Mike Tupper

Excused: Liz Cox

Absent: Joy Fopma, Suzanne Wright

Guests: Erika Rist, NAHT Legislative Research Consultant; Pat Harmeyer IA DOT, Chief David Lorenzen IA DOT and Truckers Against Trafficking

Taking Minutes: Margaret Epplin

Call to Order and Roll Call. Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chair Belitsos. Roll call was taken.

Review today's agenda. Any changes?

There were no changes to the Agenda. Davidson is leaving the call early and therefore was moved up on the agenda.

Davidson announced that she is taking a new position at Mercy Hospital in Cedar Rapids as Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator. This is a newly created part-time position, proposed to Mercy by Davidson, and is the first of its kind in Iowa. Davidson knows of only three other similar positions in a hospital in the nation. The initial goal is to create an expert response team at the hospital so that human trafficking victims will receive timely and effective help at the hospital. The second goal is to educate Mercy Medical Center to recognize trafficking victims. The new protocol developed by Davidson and training on how to recognize trafficking victims and develop a response plan will be shared with other hospitals free of charge. Davidson hopes to change the statistic that 88% of human trafficking survivors see medical personnel and are not identified as victims. On behalf of the Board, Belitsos and Tinsman congratulated and thanked Davidson for her anti-trafficking efforts.

Tinsman asked that the recent handout about human trafficking and health care providers be shared with the entire NAHT Board. Belitsos had handed it out at the Board meeting at Prairie Meadows but will send it out again to all Board members. Tinsman also requested that Davidson share the newly created protocol with her and Egan from Braking Traffik.

Rixner said that at the recent Human Trafficking Summit she heard that Unity Point is working on a best practices protocol for victims of human trafficking, and Rixner has heard of other attempts in her region to develop a healthcare protocol. Rixner asked if a statewide protocol of best practices for victims of human trafficking is being developed. Davidson replied that she has reached out to University of Iowa Hospitals, St Luke's, Allen, Covenant (Waterloo), and Mercy (Iowa City), to learn how they serve human trafficking victims.

Davidson reported that the University of Iowa Hospitals has instructions in many languages in the urine sample room which informs human trafficking victims to put a blue dot on their urine cup. In this way the victims remain safe and hospital staff reach out to them to see if they need help.

Davidson asked NAHT Board members for any contact names from their regions who might be working on establishing a healthcare human trafficking best practices protocol.

Belitsos will announce Davidson's new position on the NAHT blog post along with her email address so that others can contact her about this new position and what is happening. Belitsos also asked Davidson for her list of job goals, and Davidson will send the list to Belitsos.

Executive Committee meeting report and approval of Consent Agenda

- Motion to approve April 19 meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors.
- Motion to approve the treasurer's report. As of May 1-NAHT recorded \$777.37 in the savings account and \$566.00 in checking.
- Motion to authorize the Chair to enter a legislative research volunteer consultant agreement with Erika Rist.
- Motion to authorize the Chair to sign a paid consultant agreement with Chantzler Brooks as a technology consultant at \$13 an hour.
- Motion to approve the request from the newly formed Southwest Iowa Coalition on Human Trafficking to affiliate with and become an ally of the Iowa NAHT.
- Motion to authorize the Board Chair to sign a Hotel/Motel Training MOU with the Nebraska Coalition on Human Trafficking and the Siouland Coalition Against Human Trafficking.
- Motion to accept with regret the resignation of Erin Schneider from the Board of Directors due to a meeting time conflict at the Drake Law School.
- Motion to elect Katie Kyker from Council Bluffs to the NAHT Board of Directors to serve as the representative for the Southwest Iowa Coalition on Human Trafficking.

Tinsman noted that at top of page 2 of the minutes "2019" should be "2018." Epplin will make the change.

Tinsman asked how many hours Chantzler Brooks is expected to work. Belitsos said around 3 to 4 hours per week.

Tinsman asked if there is a cost to NAHT for signing the Hotel/Motel Training MOU with the Nebraska Coalition on Human Trafficking and the Siouland Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Belitsos reported that NAHT is co-signing and there is no cost to NAHT. O'Meara is leading the effort as he has in two other regions.

Beran reported there have been several donations since May 1. Beran reported that Belitsos has contributed \$1,000 this year, Tinsman \$500, Reding \$300, and \$500 from Dubuque Schools, as well as lesser amounts from other Board members. Beran and Belitsos expressed concern that the NAHT budget is running low and asked all Board members to contribute and to encourage their churches and service club organizations to contribute, too.

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

Report of the Legislative Advocacy Committee. Review outcome of top three 2018 legislative priorities (1) Restoration of state funding for the Office to Combat Human trafficking, (2) Creation of a workgroup to examine mandatory reporter training, (3) legislation to expand and improve anti-trafficking laws. Plans for 2019 Legislative priorities (Cox & Tinsman).

Belitsos said the Iowa budget appropriations bill includes the increased funding from \$75,000 (Governor's recommendation) to \$150,000 for the DPS Office to Combat Human Trafficking. The appropriations bill has passed both Iowa houses and awaits the Governor's signature. This increased funding will meet one of NAHT's three legislative objectives when the bill is signed into law.

Belitsos reported that the bill on trauma informed care practices and suicide prevention in schools has been signed by the Governor. This meets a second NAHT 2018 legislative goal.

Tinsman reported that the Mandatory Reporter Work Group bill passed the Senate 49-0 but was received in the House too late and didn't get in as a separate bill. Tinsman and Cox worked with Heaton and other Representatives to include this as an amendment to the HHS budget appropriations bill. Belitsos reported that he made a recent visit to the legislature and the House Appropriations Committee showed him a copy of the bill proving that this was included as an amendment. Belitsos doesn't think Governor Reynolds will line item veto the Mandatory Reporter Work Group amendment as Reynolds has told Belitsos that she supports the Work Group proposal. This bill awaits the Governor's signature. The passage of this bill creating a Mandatory Reporter Work Group will meet one of NAHT's legislative objectives.

Rixner reported that the Siouxland Coalition Against Human Trafficking is interested in working on penalties for buyers of minors and increased penalties for johns. They are researching Nebraska laws. Tinsman asked that Rixner send her the list of suggestions.

Legislative research volunteer consultant's report (Erika Rist)

Belitsos introduced Rist. Rist has finished her first year at the University of Iowa Law School and has generously offered her time this summer as a volunteer to study the following three legislative items:

- Research and write a human trafficking legislative history for 2006-2012.
- Build a case for Iowa to adopt a Safe Harbor law (those under age 18 will not be charged with prostitution).
- Build a case for Iowa to increase penalties for buyers of prostitution.

Rist gave more background about herself and what is motivating her to take this on. Rist grew up in Pennsylvania and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago. Rist came to law school to work on human trafficking issues along with pornography.

Rist doesn't believe fellow law students understand the importance of legal protection for prostitutes under the age of 18, but they are convinced when Rist explains that it is more expensive to jail than to provide services. Rist is self-taught in economics and will develop and promote a case for Iowa to pass the Safe Harbor law for those under 18 by showing that it is economically beneficial.

Rist is excited to see that Iowa has a statute with higher maximums for buyers of prostitution than those charged with prostitution, and the only other state like this is New York. O'Meara said that in Nebraska this isn't the general pattern, and in Nebraska the emphasis is more on situations involving minors as opposed to adults. Nebraska has a tiered system and various circumstances, such as age, violence or injury, impact the penalty. O'Meara recommends Rist prepare a chart listing various state laws and penalties for buyers of prostitution compared to minors charged with prostitution. O'Meara also recommends researching what actually happens when someone is charged as a buyer of prostitution or is a minor charged with prostitution.

Rist will be grateful for any additional information from NAHT Board members. Rist has a small human trafficking grant from the University of Iowa and asks NAHT Board members to use her as a resource.

Belitsos asked O'Meara to assist Rist on researching legal and prosecution practices, and O'Meara agreed to help. O'Meara asked Belitsos to send Rist the updated Board list so she has contact information.

Houston suggested that Erika research on the Shared Hope International anti-human trafficking website which reports human trafficking data. Belitsos said Shared Hope International sent out state report cards this year, and Iowa scored a very-favorable "B" on the strength of its human trafficking laws. O'Meara warned that the

favorable report card is based on state anti-human trafficking laws that have been passed, but as these laws are applied in real life, results may not always be as expected.

Rixner reminded that NAHT looked at the Safe Harbor law before and decided to go a different direction. Belitsos reported that Erika is building a case for Safe Harbor law for minors only. The complete Safe Harbor law covers more than minors.

Tinsman has read that Illinois does not charge persons under 18 for prostitution and advised Rist to research this law since NAHT is supporting a law which does not charge those under 18 for prostitution. Rist confirmed that this is the law in Illinois. O'Meara suggested Rist research Nebraska legislation in the last two to three years. Belitsos noted Nebraska's stronger legislation.

Reding joined the call.

Report on human trafficking website and programming by the IA Department of Transportation and DOT coordination and support of Truckers Against Trafficking (Pat Harmeyer)

Harmeyer reported that Iowa DOT had a soft roll-out of its new human trafficking map website after the recent Human Trafficking Summit: www.iowadot.gov/endslavery/. The website has an interactive map. Federal, state, local, and faith-based resource providers will be contacted by letter for up-to-date contact information. In addition, Belitsos provided the NAHT resource directory, and Harmeyer has been cross checking the list and will follow up with a phone call. If a service provider is not on the 24-hour Iowa Hotline, Harmeyer will ask how they provide 24-hour services or what are their hours of service. The website uses the same service regional map as the Attorney General's Office.

Harmeyer said that there are service providers on the NAHT website which are not on the Attorney General's list. Belitsos has recently updated the NAHT resource list including suggested additions from the Attorney General's Office. Belitsos has visited the Iowa DOT website and feels it is user friendly and will be helpful to referral agencies, law enforcement, prosecutors, etc.

Truckers Against Trafficking Freedom Drivers Project rolling museum will be at Iowa State Fair for the first two days of the 2018 Iowa State Fair (only one day last year).

Report on new DOT human trafficking training program for bus drivers (Chief Dave Lorenzen)

Lorenzen has met with Bradshaw and Simbric who provide basic law enforcement academy trainings, and both are committed to including instruction on how to use the DOT website in the training.

Lorenzen reported on the BOTL (Busing on the Lookout) project which seeks to educate bus drivers to identify and report human trafficking. Drivers can make calls to a human trafficking resource center when they see potentially vulnerable minors in bus stations or on buses as perpetrators often move victims around the country by bus. Harmeyer has hired a full-time coordinator to lead the BOTL project.

Mike Ferjak and the DOT are working to educate Iowa school bus drivers to identify students who have been abused or are trafficked. Lorenzen will present a session on July 24 at the Iowa school transportation directors' conference. Lorenzen has the goal to train every school bus driver, whether the driver works for a contractor employed by the school district or the school district. Lorenzen will provide the training and all the materials.

Lorenzen has talked to DART (Des Moines Area Regional Transit) and will work with them after the Iowa State Fair is over. Burlington Bus lines has already trained their drivers.

Lorenzen added more information about efforts to educate truckers. A dedicated team of five Iowa Motor Vehicle staff are delivering trainings to employees at truck stops and travel plazas to let them know what to do if they see human trafficking. Flying J, Love, and Pilot have agreements with Iowa DOT to educate employees in their facilities. In addition, several major trucking companies have agreements to bring weekly or monthly training to new drivers at their headquarters including CRST (Cedar Rapids) and TMC (Des Moines). TanTara of Muscatine has trained all 85 drivers.

Tinsman noted that the Walcott Truck Stop is located in her area and remembers the owner saying, “Why are you trying to ruin my business?” Lorenzen reported that this opinion has changed and that he has a strong relationship with the Walcott Truck Stop owner and serves on a quarterly board with him. The Walcott Truck Stop sponsored the Freedom Truck at their truck stop festival last year.

Rixner asked the cost to bring in the Freedom Truck. Lorenzen said there is no cost since the Freedom Truck is a 501 C 3 with donors who are large carriers. Lorenzen is on the Truckers Against Trafficking national Board of Directors. Rixner requested the Freedom Truck for the Sioux City area. Lorenzen reported that the Freedom Truck has been in Sergeant Bluff. Lorenzen asked Rixner to send him the places she would like to see the Freedom Truck far in advance as sometimes it is already booked for requested dates.

The Iowa DOT is also working with the California Highway Patrol.

Rixner asked if labor trafficking is included in trainings. In all trainings, Lorenzen said that they use the words “human trafficking” which includes labor trafficking. Most is sex trafficking, but truckers are informed that there are other types of trafficking. Lorenzen gave an example of labor trafficking. Alabama and Georgia youth were selling magazines door-to-door in Urbandale. Iowa DPS staff talked to the youth and learned that if the youth don’t reach their quotas, food and lodging are reduced, and sometimes the youth are encouraged to do sex trafficking to get food and lodging.

Belitsos thanked Harmeyer and Lorenzen for continuing to lead anti-trafficking efforts in Iowa and nationwide. The transportation industry is becoming very aware about human trafficking. Belitsos asked both Harmeyer and Lorenzen to send additional information which he will post on the NAHT blog.

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

Belitsos complimented Houston for his 61-page research report, *The State of Support: Identifying Best Practices and Barriers of Human Trafficking Victim Services within the State of Iowa*, and asked Houston to give the Board a summary of findings.

Houston reviewed the timeline of the report. Several weeks ago, a rough draft was reviewed by the NAHT Research, Evaluation, and Best Practice Standards Committee and a meeting was held to go over the recommendations listed in the report. Houston had worried that his research would overlap with the Attorney General’s recent report, but found his report complements the Attorney General’s report, which has a lot of quantitative numbers, but not a lot of detail. Houston said that his report provides more in-depth data to help explain some broader quantitative numbers related to barriers, e.g., why it is difficult to get clients to report victimization.

Houston’s first finding was there was not one specific best practice that stood out. Persons interviewed for Houston’s report emphasized a victim-centered approach, but the definition of “victim-centered” varied. Research on human trafficking is more recent and there is no universally accepted best practice protocol for serving victims:

“As we have learned, having qualified referrals for a diverse set of services are essential tools for service providers. An effective way to help expedite those referrals, build a trusted network, and have confidence in sending one’s client to support services is to have standard best practices. Thus, advocates can gain greater assurance that the level of care they are providing is continuous.”

The second finding was that providers were dealing with emotional and high-stress jobs, and self-care was “all over the place.” Providers knew of self-care activities but didn’t practice them. Burn-out is happening and is a high concern.

Houston’s research found that the barrier mentioned most often was service funding. All or a significant portion of funding comes from federal, state or local sources which are often cut. Providers need more private funding sources so that they are not up to the whim of each year’s state or federal budget. Providers need to advocate for budgets which do not cut appropriations for social services or increase funding for one service at the expense of another service.

Houston is sending the report to all interviewees and will establish a call-in time to talk to interviewees and answer questions. Houston will also hold a couple face-to-face meetings.

Belitsos asked that the NAHT Board closely review the recommendations section. One recommendation is that someone needs to take a lead role in setting up an Iowa best practices protocol for survivor services. Houston said there is growing coalition of providers who are starting to discuss best practices, including the NAHT Survivors Services Collaboration, chaired by Fopma. Belitsos will send the members of the Provider Collaboration a copy of the report and request that they, as a group, commit to writing survivor service best practices.

Rixner asked if Houston had any suggestions regarding labor trafficking. Houston reported that many interviewees mentioned labor trafficking and then quickly said more needs to be done. Some organizations are starting to create specific programs for labor trafficking. Houston said victims of labor trafficking don’t know of services available to them. There needs to be more emphasis on education about labor trafficking and resources available for victims of labor trafficking.

Belitsos asked Houston if he can include a link to his report on the NAHT blog post and Houston agreed. Belitsos will summarize the 6 report recommendations and will place this discussion on the June 18 NAHT Board agenda.

Report of the May 8 meeting of the Survivor Services Collaboration (Fopma, Fineran, Davidson)

Collaboration Chairperson Fopma is absent today. Fineran reported that this is a group which meets quarterly and limits membership to those who provide direct services to survivors. Members share what services each currently provides and resources they know about. Members develop a network of referrals and share information on available trainings.

Belitsos shared that he attended the last Collaboration meeting. There was a good turnout of over 20 people. Members discussed a need for best practices but haven’t set up a committee or started writing yet. Belitsos will write up a report on the work of the Collaboration on his blog post and how to become a member of this Collaboration.

Fineran asked about agencies or organizations Houston interviewed for his report. Houston said all his contacts were confidential. Houston stated that the interactive map of resources which the DOT is developing is a good place to find resources, as well as the NAHT resource directory. Houston added that, in his interviewing, names of therapists in private practice willing to take human trafficking victims as clients were shared. Fineran said

that complex trauma therapists are hard to find, and agencies need to know which private practice counselors will take clients.

Belitsos said that the NAHT list of resources is undergoing a major expansion and revision. As reported earlier, the DOT is currently verifying information on the NAHT list after which it will put the resources on the DOT map.

Report from the Central Iowa, Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, and Iowa City Hotel/Motel Employee Training Projects. Startup plans in eastern and western Iowa. (Reding, Davidson, O'Meara, Rixner)

Rixner said they received the Junior League grant and, in June, O'Meara will hold a preparatory meeting with the Siouxland Coalition and the Junior League of Sioux City to work out details for a training in August or September. The MOU for this training is pending and will be signed by the NAHT, the Nebraska Coalition, and the Siouxland Coalition.

O'Meara also has a pending MOU for a Clinton training and has requested a list of specific counties in Eastern Iowa and Illinois that will be covered by the hotel/motel trainers.

The newly formed Southwest Iowa Coalition has joined the NAHT Board and may also move forward with planning hotel/motel trainings. The Coalition against Human Trafficking out of Omaha has undertaken western Iowa trainings so far, and has included Council Bluffs since Council Bluffs is part of the Omaha metro area. O'Meara hopes eventually the Southwest Iowa Coalition will take over Council Bluffs training.

Updates on efforts to adopt city massage ordinances in Newton (passed), Marshalltown (introduced but on hold), Altoona (passed), Clive (passed), West Des Moines (passed), Urbandale (passed), Pleasant Hill (passed), Sioux City (on hold), Ames, other cities?

Belitsos noted that the number of cities with massage ordinances has increased to 6. Belitsos will send out copies of the Altoona ordinance to the NAHT Board with a description of how that community successfully processed and implemented their anti-trafficking massage ordinance.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

The Executive Committee conference call for May 28 is **cancelled** due to Memorial Day.

The next Board of Directors meeting is Monday, June 18, 2:30-4 pm (conference call)

The Board of Directors conference call for July 16 is **cancelled** due to summer vacations.

The next Executive Committee Meeting is Monday, July 30, 2:30-4 pm (conference call)