

Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking & Slavery Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

Present: Dr. George Belitsos, Lauren Camp, Sister Shirley Fineran, Sgt. Elizabeth Quinn, Alyse Hardin, Dr. Taylor Houston, Shana Kargbo, Jennifer Kerger, Katie Kyker, Dr. Joe Moravec, Sergeant Elizabeth Quinn (Proxy), Shirlee, Jessica Rohrs, Maggie Tinsman, Mike Tupper, John Hageman (Proxy), Jonathan Causey, Bernadette Rixner

Guest: Brenda Long

Absent: None

Excused: Lauren Camp, Suzanne Wright, Roxanne Riesberg, Shanon Findley, Dr. Alissa Stoehr

- 1. Belitsos called the meeting to order.** Introduced guest Brenda Long who has been nominated for Board membership by the Executive Committee. She is the director of Garden Gate Ranch. Long briefly introduced herself. She invited Board members to the 4th annual Eyes Wide Open Trafficking Conference on October 11th at Heartland Church in Ankeny, IA from 8am to 4:30pm. 140 are currently registered. The conference will include panels on Human Trafficking legislation and law enforcement issues, health and social services, as well as community resources. A breakout session will also be offered. The NAHT will have an information table staffed by Belitsos and Reding.

Board member Lauren Camp is in Sioux City investigating complaints about Micronesian men possibly being labor trafficked in meatpacking businesses. Media reached out to Belitsos for information, and he referred them to the Siouxland Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition. Camp asked Belitsos to ask Board members to send her any help with language interpreters or information about the Micronesian men. Two board members will contact Camp.

- 2. Introduction of newly hired director of Lila Mae's House and plans for the grand opening this November (Marit Westrich, Sister Shirley Fineran) – Will report next month**
- 3. Plans for "Pediatric Human Trafficking Issues and Challenges" seminar and proposed Human Trafficking certification training modules. (Dr. Joe Moravec)**

Moravec – announced plans for a half-day anti-trafficking symposium scheduled for Monday, April 6th, 2020, from 12:30 to 4:30 PM at Mercy College of Health Sciences. The focus is on child sex trafficking. The symposium is free to the public to attend. The keynote speaker is Dr. Jordan Greenbaum who will speak about a public health approach to child trafficking. Teresa Davidson will also discuss the trauma informed care service approach to trafficking survivors. Young adult survivors will also speak.

Moravec also stated Dr. Greenbaum will be free the morning before the symposium and is open to working on other projects/events. Belitsos recommended having Greenbaum do a lecture at Iowa State University or speak with Shanon Findley, MD, about speaking in Iowa City to the University Hospital students and/or staff.

Moravec also described the large training center within Mercy College. He is proposing developing a center for human trafficking training within the College, which would include best practice, evidence-based training as well as create research on restoration. Moravec shared the following proposal and asked for Board feedback.

The Need: From current research of the state of support of human trafficking efforts within the State of Iowa (Source: Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking [NAHT] and Slavery’s commissioned 2018 study conducted by Dr. Taylor Houston), training is needed to address a critical need to educate professionals and communities to be able to identify victims, assist in rescue and to care for, support and serve survivors of human trafficking and/or those entrapped in this destructive, life-crushing indignity forced upon innocent and vulnerable people of all ages, cultures and beliefs.

The Scope: The **Proposed Anti-Human Trafficking Best-Practice Training Modules Endeavor** is envisioned to provide uniformity, excellence and completeness in the collection and practical application of data and information through effective research, communication and training in furtherance of the prevention, education, rescue and restoration in the battle against human trafficking.

The How: The **Proposed Anti-Human Trafficking Best-Practice Training Modules Endeavor** is designed to provide multiple concentrations and levels of education to identify, engage and eliminate human trafficking ranging from basic community awareness to the delivery of specific restoration skill-sets and techniques to “front-line” practitioners and care providers.

As such, it will research best-practice concepts and protocols utilizing the education, experience and skills of recognized leaders in the anti-human trafficking movement with a view to create/offer (non-academic) learning modules dealing with relevant, current issues concerning human trafficking. These training modules, while being provided to individuals and organizations (for e.g. CEU, MEU credit) through various media (e.g. face-to-face, online, hybrid), will be offered in three certification levels:

Basic Certificate: Modules focused on what every concerned citizen (e.g. parent, teacher, healthcare worker, pastor) needs to know in order to identify and know where to report human trafficking.

Advocate Certificate: Modules focused on what every concerned advocate (e.g. survivor-centered agency worker, board member, lobbyist, law-maker, teachers, media producer) needs to know about human trafficking.

Advanced Certificate: Modules focused on what every service provider who is working with survivors (e.g. law enforcement officer, social worker, healthcare worker, pastor) needs to know about human trafficking.

After presenting the above proposal, Moravec asked the board if there is a need for training modules in the state? Bernadette Rixner stated there is a need to train advocates without having to work for the Iowa domestic violence or sexual assault coalitions.

Rohrs wanted to know how the training would address confidentiality needs for the advocates? Current advocates have protections under the law from being compelled to discuss their conversations with clients. How would the training/certificate program address this need?

Kargbo liked the idea of the training modules and stated there was a need for a systematic way to train new and interested young people. Reding mentioned that the training center could also potentially take on the need to create a training video for future hotel/motel employee training.

Jonathan Causey recommended that Moravec reach out to Jennifer Ware at DHS to gather ideas on how to provide evidence based/best practice training. Moravec also suggested having certain board members create the curriculum for the training modules.

Lastly, Kargbo asked if there were any other academic training programs being offered at the moment? Moravec said there wasn't, and Houston reported that GEMS (Girls Educational and Mentoring Services) was a non-academic program that was offered.

4. Approval of consent agenda – Tinsman asked to take off the Treasurer's report and Kerger asked for an amendment to reconcile the September ending balance on the Treasurer's report.

The board approved the following consent agenda unanimously:

- Motion to approve the September 10th meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors
- Motion to accept the Treasurer's report for September 2019
- Motion to elect Brenda Long to fill the vacant board seat left by Joy Fopma
- Motion to accept AlphaCopies bid to print 500 NAHT remittance envelopes for \$364.84
- Motion to print 2,500 more rescue stickers at a cost of \$282.82

In discussion of the treasurer's report, Tinsman asked about 3 deposits equaling \$4085.00. Belitsos reported that \$1500.00 was from Rotary, another \$1000.00 was from the Hammond Foundation, board members donated another \$800.00, and there were online donations from Facebook and

Paypal that summed up to \$103.00. Maggie requested that there be more of a breakdown of the deposits in future treasurer's reports. Kerger agreed to add more information going forward.

The board unanimously voted to approve the treasurer's report.

5. Progress report from the Johnson County Human Trafficking Coalition – Belitsos read Shannon's brief written report.

6. Discussion about the value of john schools and consideration of Iowa legislation to require attendance in a john school for sex buyers (Shirlee Reding and Teresa Davidson)

Reding visited the Breaking Free john school in Minneapolis. There are currently no known john schools in Iowa. The Plymouth and Des Moines Anti-Trafficking Coalition had a program last January on the Breaking Free program which took place in Des Moines. Material about Breaking Free was in today's board packet.

Reding first discussed how the original approach for john schools was based on shaming and blaming. However, the new approach is now based on therapeutic intervention. The one full day Breaking Free program examines why men purchase sex. Reding reported she was impressed with the program she observed.

Men came in not wanting to be there, but changed their mindset by the end of the day. The men learned about the trauma victims experience. They also talked about the negative impact being arrested had on their lives – jail, family/job loss, etc. The cost of the one day intervention program is \$800. All the fee money for the school goes to the school's expenses and victim services. Reding reported that all of the offenders in the program had to be referred by judges and/or counselors (i.e. deferred judgement). She also mentioned that part of the \$800.00 cost would be refunded if the men were not arrested for solicitation within the next year.

Tinsman asked if every john was referred to the school. Reding responded that not everyone is referred, and that the school is not always mandatory. Causey commented that the deferred judgement connected with the school sounded like a good idea. Shirlee Reding also stated that she would provide board members with more information about the john schools if requested – Alyse Hardin, Shana Kargbo, Brenda Long, Bernadette Rixner all requested further information.

Rixner also reported that every john school she was familiar with only allowed first time offenders to attend.

7. Report from the Fundraising Committee. Giving Tuesday plans, Amazon Smile, remittance envelope (Katie Kyker)

Katie Kyker reported that thus far only six board members have made a 2019 donation and asked that all members donate to the organization by December in order to achieve 100% board participation. She also reminded board members to use Amazon Smile when making purchases through the online shopping company. Kyker reported that NAHT will participate in Giving Tuesday (December 3rd). She also reminded the board about the 100 + Men and Women programs throughout the state. They are a potential source of local funding support. She advocated for members to get on their local 100 + Men and Women's radar and solicit support. Finally, Kyker reported receiving the Board's first donation through Thrivent Financial – \$190.00. Belitsos will send a thank you letter.

8. Report on outcome of study of city massage ordinances and discussion of what is happening to victims once an illicit massage business is closed. (Shirlee Reding) Disposed Sex Charges for 10 counties and report from the Research and Best Practice Committee (Dr. Taylor Houston and committee) - see attached

Reding has conducted a study of the effectiveness of the city massage ordinances. Reding reported that all of the people that she communicated with (primarily police) believed the ordinances were working well. She did report that in Clive they said they might not follow up with anymore ordinance checks because they think “the bad guys are out of town.” She found that in the smaller cities with ordinances, police went to every business in town and checked licenses.

However, in the larger cities police often only reported going to those businesses who had been reported. No trafficker arrests had been made in any of the counties, except in Dubuque and Davenport. Approximately 20 massage workers have been rescued, but there is no good record of how many have received services. Reding also reported that police were having a hard time finding Asian translators, making it harder for police to evaluate which of the women were in need of help. Furthermore, there are no police databases that exist to alert when businesses are out of compliance with the ordinance. She also found out that there have been problems with the state licensing board providing licenses to those with past prostitution charges.

Taylor Houston briefly discussed the disposed charges worksheet. He asked board members why there might have been a jump in the number of charges from 2015 – 2017, and then a drop off since then. Bernadette Rixner stated she could not understand the acronyms in the table, and asked Belitsos to provide names for the acronyms. After Houston's presentation of arrests in the 10 largest counties, the board ran out of time for discussion.

9. Startup of Service Provider Collaboration - (Alyse Hardin and Suzie Wright) – skipped for time purposes

10. Report from the Legislative Advocacy Committee (Maggie Tinsman and Jonathan Causey)

Five Legislative priorities proposed by the legislative committee

Tinsman presented the list of proposed 2020 legislative priorities. Five were recommended by her committee, and one is recommended by the executive committee as follows:

1. The NAHT requests that the Iowa Legislature enact legislation to expand and improve anti-human trafficking laws. (examples)
 - a. Increase punishment for sex purchasers (Johns) to deter others. Allow LE to Impound a vehicle (if only the Johns). Alyse seen an uptick in victims being forced to transport Johns and victims.
 - b. Allow civil suits for victims of trafficking – Question about whether this can already be done.
 - c. Apply Mann Act to criminalizing the transportation of trafficking victims. (reason – problem with getting victims to work with LE). Eliminate necessity for victims being witnesses.
 - d. Immunity from prosecution for the trafficking victims.
2. The NAHT asks the Iowa Legislature to adopt a “Safe Harbor” law to decriminalize child sex trafficking survivors. Minors would no longer be charged with prostitution and instead receive services.
3. The NAHT supports the restoration of the cut to state funding for the Victim Services Division of the Iowa Attorney General’s Office. Or ask legislature to create dedicated funding.
4. The NAHT asks the Legislature to pass the Hotel/Motel Training Bill (HF455). The bill requires the Department of Public Safety to oversee the administration of the training program in relation to hotels meeting training requirements as a condition to receive Iowa government contracts. In other words, if the hotel had no human trafficking awareness training, state employees could not stay at that hotel.
5. The Iowa NAHT asks that either the Iowa Supreme Court adopt rules or that the Iowa Legislature enact legislation to add human trafficking victims to Iowa’s Rape Shield Law. (Dr. Taylor Houston suggests that this priority could be included in the “Safe Harbor” legislation. This is already being started by Justice Tom Watermann.
6. One additional priority recommended by the Executive Committee. The Iowa Legislature should create a new funding appropriation designated for human trafficking prevention and survivor services. This new source of funding should not result in taking away funding from existing state appropriations. –

After considerable discussion, Tinsman made a committee motion to adopt the five priorities by combining #3 and #6 into one priority. **Motion Approved.**

Tinsman briefly reported that she had talked with Angela Davis, an attorney who does lobbying, who suggested that the NAHT work with other associations and coalitions in order to reduce the cost of her services. In this way, the cost of her NAHT consulting contract could go down from the original cost of \$15,000 to \$5,000. The Legislative Committee is now in the process of raising the \$5,000 needed to hire a consultant to provide lobbying and governmental relations.

11. Report on the NAHT Rescue Sticker Statewide Distribution Project – Ran out of time.

Next Board meeting will be on November 12, 2019 from 2:30-4:00 pm.