

**NAHT Minutes**  
Tuesday, September 10, 2019  
Conference Call

**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, Sgt. Elizabeth Quinn, Shirlee Reding, Roxanne Rieserg, Jessica Rohrs, Maggie Tinsman, Mike Tupper

**Guest:** Gretchen Brown-Waech, Teresa Davidson, Bryne Howard, Chief Dave Lorenzen, Melanie Shellenberger, Allison Welch (Intern), Dr. Shannon Findlay, Linda Greenlee

**Absent:** Dr. Alissa Stoehr

**Excused:** Jessie Johnson, Bernadette Rixner, Jonathan Causey, Suzanne Wright

**Belitsos called the meeting to order.** A request was made by Tinsman to add a report from the Legislative Advocacy Committee to the agenda.

**Update from the DOT and Truckers Against Trafficking** – David Lorenzen reported that the Drivers’ Freedom Project Trailer parked on the grand concourse was a big hit at the Iowa State Fair. They had over 1,200 people go through the trailer in about 8-9 hours and had a lot of good conversations with visitors about human trafficking. Next year, they hope to work with the fair officials to get additional days to exhibit the trailer.

The DOT is working with two major trucking companies in Iowa, who are committed to train all their new drivers on human trafficking awareness. To this date, they have trained over 3,000 truckers. Also, they are making an effort to train 103 Des Moines Regional Transit bus drivers on human trafficking before the NCAA playoffs coming to Des Moines next spring. Another new project in the developing stages came out of a meeting with Sapp Brothers Truck Stop Corporate. They have 17 truck stops in the Midwest with 2 in Iowa. Their goal is to roll out a human trafficking training program for all their truck stop employees. The Sapp Brothers want to offer a once a month awareness meeting for new employees and to create a safe room for victims in need of help.

Lorenzen stated that they have been working with the Catch Des Moines group, who would like to host a human trafficking coalition building meeting in the spring of 2020. Through this group, they hooked up with the Iowa Bankers Association and did 5 training sessions with them. Other training sessions for associations were done in Estherville, Cedar Falls, Fairfield, and Johnston. The Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) in working with Motor Vehicle Enforcement put together a 30 minute human trafficking training video for DOT nationwide employees. They are planning a one hour face-to-face training for over 2,700 DOT employees and will use the video for all new employees.

Another human trafficking project that TAT is working on is with the Casey convenience stores. Recently there was an incident in Stuart, Iowa, where a victim escaped due to a Casey employee. The victim wasn't being trafficked commercially, but was being held against her will as well as sexually abused and controlled. Lorenez stated that from the human trafficking awareness presentation he gave to Casey, they were putting together a webinar for all their drivers throughout 16 states. Many of their drivers at the Casey stores deliver at all hours, which is prime time for traffickers to utilize Casey's stores. Lorenez is also building relationships with the HyVee and Fareway stores to train not only their drivers but also employees in the stores.

Tinsman asked if they had trained all the employees of all the truck stops in Iowa. Lorenzen said that they don't have all of them done, but have identified 69 truck parking areas and have reached 2/3 of them.

Belitsos asked about the NAHT rescue stickers and the posters that the DOT was given. Lorenzen was finding that the stickers were not popular as truck stops do not want to place stickers on their walls. However, he planned to put the posters in all the DOT's rest areas. Lorenzen will try to get the rescue stickers distributed.

With the help of Catch Des Moines, he will be doing a human trafficking presentation for 80 members and wives of the Iowa Soybean Association in October. Under resources of TAT's website <https://truckersagainstrafficking.org/>, you can check out their 30 minute videos on human trafficking. He recommended taking time to look at the "no demand campaign" on the website. They are working to get this campaign into the hands of the Iowa Fellowship of Christian Athletes in hopes that by changing the mindset of the 17-18 year old person, a change in the culture will begin to happen.

On behalf of the board, Belitsos commended Lorenzen for the outstanding progress being made by the DOT and Truckers Against Trafficking.

**Approval of consent agenda** – Treasurer's report and August 13th board minutes were approved as amended.

**Report from counsel on human trafficking attorney for Senator Grassley** – No report

**Progress report from the Johnson County Human Trafficking Coalition** – Shannon Findlay reported that in October they will be doing several presentations on human trafficking awareness for

- Iowa City League of Women Voters
- Residents of Iowa City - "Human trafficking what you need to know" at the Iowa City Library
- Hospital and medical school systems

Findlay stated that a group of undergraduate students from the University of Iowa called "Human Trafficking Initiative" is working on developing a protocol for identifying human trafficking for the "free" medical clinic and the mobile clinic in Iowa City. The coalition has put together a

subcommittee at the hospital that is working on developing a hospital-wide protocol. For the past year, there has been a protocol being used by the emergency department.

Findlay also reported that the coalition has been working on distributing the NAHT rescue stickers in the downtown area as well as in other locations that they have identified. The coalition meets regularly on the third Tuesday of the month at 8:00 am at the Johnson County Public Health Building.

### **Update on behalf of Stephanie Simbric on the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy**

Sergeant Quinn filled in for Simbric, who is teaching a class at the academy at this time. Quinn reported that the Academy had trained approximately 1,200 professionals so far in FY19 and recently Simbric did assist the Cedar Rapids Police Department in implementing human trafficking training for their basic Academy Classes. In connection with the Iowa Legal Aid, she has set up additional training for their offices in Cedar Rapids and Clinton, Iowa. Quinn stated that all human trafficking enforcement public trainings are available on the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy website (<https://ileatrainng.org/>); and that starting in January 2020, approval has been given to increase the training hours for the basic Academy Class on the topic of trauma and interviewing.

Belitsos thanked Quinn for reporting and will include a written update from Simbric in the next NAHT blog/Facebook post.

**Updating the Network website resource directory** – Allison Tow-Welch stated that she has been updating the NAHT resources directory. The biggest adjustments being made to the directory deal with contact information for each of the agencies. There will also be a new section on coalitions. She has checked all the links on the website to make sure they are working properly and are updated. She has done some general organizational formatting changes to make it more user-friendly.

A couple things that she feels still need to be done are expanding the education curriculum for classroom use and the need of more information from some of the coalitions to clarify the correct name and contact person. She sent out a questionnaire to all coalitions. She wanted everyone to be aware that any new changes being made will not appear on the website until the end of October or the first part of November.

**Presentation on the Iowa Safe at Home Program** – Melanie Shellenberger is from the office of the Iowa Secretary of State. She began by explaining the Safe at Home Program, which is a confidential program for victims who have moved away from a bad situation. They help victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking.

They provide victims with a substitute address, a mail forwarding service, and confidential voter registration and absentee ballots. This program is aimed at helping victims who fear for their safety by assigning an alternate mailing address that they could use for all public documents. To apply you need to go to their website <https://safeathome.iowa.gov/>.

**Report from the fundraising committee** – Kyker stated that the committee wanted to make sure that there was 100% board participation in giving, which was achieved last year. If you make a donation online or by mail, you may specify where you want the money to go on the memo line on the check.

We submitted an application to Thrivent to be listed as a charitable organization to receive donations from their Choice Dollar Plan and the NAHT has been accepted. Another thing the committee would like to use are donation remittance envelopes that board members can hand out as they do outreach in communities. The committee is getting bids to create and print envelopes.

Belitsos stated that he wrote a grant to the Hammond Foundation for \$1,000 to cover printing needs, and the grant was approved. He also mentioned that NAHT got \$1,500 from two Rotary Clubs (Iowa City Noon Rotary Club and West Liberty Rotary Club).

**Update on immigration Refugee Trafficking Awareness and Prevention grant project** – Jessie Johnson is ill today, but submitted the following written report: Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Services (TAPS) continues to conduct outreach throughout the state. In the past couple of weeks, they have received several referrals for assisting victims of both sex and labor trafficking. They are very excited to announce the hiring of a Case Manager who has extensive experience in serving survivors of human trafficking and will begin in October. At that time, TAPS will begin offering direct services to clients. TAPS will send out a biography of the Case Manager and more details about her position to the NAHT once she begins. Additionally, the TAPS program is receiving research assistance from a Brandeis University student, Resham Sethi. Resham will be conducting research concerning labor trafficking in Iowa, with the goal of creating an economic profile of our state to better understand labor trafficking.

Belitsos will also print this report in the NAHT blog/Facebook post.

**Report on the Legislative Advocacy Committee** – Tinsman reported that the committee had its first meeting to discuss the kind of anti-trafficking legislation the NAHT should be supporting. She asked the board to email her as soon as possible any suggested 2019 legislation that they would like taken up for consideration. The committee was going to take the legislation ideas and prioritize legislation for the next 2020 session. HF455, hotel/motel training legislation, that didn't pass and was supported by NAHT will be one of the priorities since this was voted on by the board in August. The committee is also looking at increasing the punishment for the "John," making prostitution not an offense for those under 18, and adding the Safe Harbor Law.

**Launch plans for the Demand an End Campaign and collaboration with the Attorney General's Office** – Brown-Waech regretted to report that the Attorney General's Office has made the decision to end the contract with the organization that created the "Demand an End Campaign." The office is still committed to rolling out a different end demand campaign in January.

Belitsos suggested that the January 16th, 2020, Governor's proclamation signing event be utilized as a good time to launch this campaign.

**“No Room for Trafficking” national training campaign and collaboration opportunities**

Reding reported that she and several other board members attended the press conference for “No Room for Trafficking” put on by the American Hotel Association and the Asian Hotel Association in November. Iowa is the first state they have announced their campaign to get all hotel/motel employees trained on recognizing and reporting trafficking. It turned out to be more of a feel good marketing press conference by the associations as there was no real curriculum or educational program on human trafficking to give to the motels/hotels.

Shana reported that they are still in the process of continuing to recruit volunteers who can do both our school project and hotel/motel training project. They have had conversations with some of the people who provide services and referrals to survivors. Basically, they are doing a little bit of reorganization of Chains Interrupted.

**Report on the NAHT Rescue Sticker Statewide Distribution Project** – Houston had nothing new to report other than asking everyone who placed stickers in their community to be sure to send back the sheet stating where the stickers had been placed. If anyone on the board was having difficulty getting stickers, please let him know. Riesberg noted that DHS office had so far been able to distribute in the service areas in Des Moines around 400 stickers and had requested 820 more, but they have not yet been received.

Houston requested that at the next Board meeting the massage ordinances effectiveness be placed on the agenda for discussion. Reding will present a follow up study on the ordinances.

Belitsos reminded the Board about the upcoming conference “Eyes Wide Open” Friday, October 11, 2019, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM at Heartland Church, 1212 Northwest 36th Street Ankeny, IA 50023

**Next Board meeting will be on October 8, 2019 from 2:30-4:00 pm.**