

Iowa NAHT Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Present: Heather Brown, Dr. George Belitsos, Teresa Davidson, Shirley Fineran, Lori Freudenberg, Katie Kyker, Dr. Joe Moravec, Shirlee Reding, Linda Harrell, Bernadette Rixner, Maggie Tinsman, Alka Khanolkar, Alyse Hardin, Kim Hilby, Dr. Shannon Findlay, and Brenda Long

Excused Absence: Jessica Rohrs, Ruth Buckels, Mike Tupper, Dr. Shannon Findlay

Absent: Alyse Eagan, Traci Stubbe

Guests: Amber Anderegg, Tom Barr, Gretchen Brown-Waech, John Chessser, Kira Finrock, Devon Greiter, David Lorenzen, and Angie Wild

Technology Consultant: Emma Kern

I. Call to order (Belitsos)

Belitsos declared a quorum and began the meeting at 2:30 PM. Belitsos introduced the guests including John Chessser, a former NAHT chair invited to return to the board, Tom Barr, representing the West Liberty Rotary Club and will serve as proxy for Alka, and Angie Wild, Dr. Findlay's protege, serving as medical fellowship on human trafficking, and has a special interest in human trafficking.

Belitsos also introduced Kira Finrock and Amber Anderegg who are both interns for Kim Hilby this summer, and have been working on the Best Practices for Survivor Services Subcommittee.

II. Presentation and update on Truckers Against Trafficking, DOT, training, posting of rescue stickers, and plans for the Iowa State Fair (Chief David Lorenzen)

Lorenzen began by explaining how he has taken a new role. After 43 years, he has retired as Chief of Motor Vehicle and Enforcement. In May he was appointed Division Director of the Systems Operations Division. He noted that he still has five bureaus, one of which is motor vehicle enforcement, so he will still be able to have one foot in the door. Lorenzen also noted that he is still on the board with Truckers Against Trafficking, as well as some other national anti-trafficking associations. He will be training Sergeant Jared Arbor to fulfill his old position.

Lorenzen explained how on July 29th he and his team worked with the Iowa International Center visitor program, and with five people from India, one of which was

the superintendent of the police for the country. They have been doing this program for the past 3 or 4 years, but this was the first time they have done it virtually. Lorenzen noted that they had a lot of questions, and were super engaged. Lorenzen and his team shared some materials of the process of how they roll out human trafficking training and awareness through the different facets of transportation and law in our state.

Lorenzen went on to explain that the Freedom Drivers Trailer will be at the Iowa State Fair from August 12-14 which is located by the DNR building. This is an opportunity for the public to walk through the trailer that has a number of video displays and other informational pieces that talk about the progression of human trafficking, as well as some interviews with victim survivors.

One of Lorenzen's officers daughter will be presenting on human trafficking at the Iowa State fair on August 14th. The time is TBD. This presentation will be given by Addison Wicklund, and has been said to be a very good presentation.

COVID-19 has put a halt on a lot of training, but Lorenzen and his team were able to do three trafficking awareness outreach events at different truck stop locations. They have another event planned in August with Flying J. Through this they have been able to spend time with drivers and visit with them about human trafficking and what role they can play. Truck drivers can be a real help, and try to mitigate these issues. With them being on the road every day, they are just another set of eyes and ears, and have been great anti-trafficking partners.

Lorenzen and his team also did a presentation for Brit for a recreational vehicle club.

The DOT had put forth an initiative to train every employee on human trafficking. Currently, they are going back to in person training for this, which is an hour and a half. This is also now part of the orientation program for new employees. They have also established five core objectives that lead into their five year goals. One of these objectives is safety, which with 3000 employees, this is a great effort. Within this, Lorenzen hopes that they will also be able to respond to things they see or hear that may be potential trafficking situations.

Truckers Against Trafficking has seen an uptick of calls coming in during the pandemic. One of the trucking companies they work with is donating a brand new Freightliner truck, which will be auctioned off. All of these proceeds go to the Truckers Against Trafficking. Two years ago, the previous auctioned off truck went for over \$100,000. They also put a TAT logo on the truck to do some more advertising and press. Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance is in 48 states including Canada and Mexico, and they have two conferences and four meetings a year. TAT has been trying to get involved with these folks, and were finally able to include this into their core curriculum. There are thousands and thousands of officers in this program, and they are now implementing human trafficking training. This will now be a component from day one.

Belitsos asked for an additional update on the DOT posting of rescue stickers. Lorenzen noted that it has been a problem recently to be able to keep these up. He stated that at some rest stops a few hours after they have posted the stickers, the information has been ripped off so it is illegible. He said they have tried using plexiglass protection, but this has still been destroyed. Lorenzen did note that this has given them some information of where potential trafficking is going on, as it has been removed so frequently. Lorenzen plans to talk to his team about other ways to place these to avoid them being destroyed.

Rixner asked about the Bussing on the Lookout program, and who will be in charge of this now. Lorenzen stated that it will be him, as well as Jared who will be taking over for Lorenzen. Rixner also asked if that program includes training the Iowa school bus drivers, or if that is something separate. Lorenzen stated that is now being taken over by Max Christiansen who is with the department of education. He took this upon himself. Lorenzen has provided them with the materials, and they are completing the training. Lorenzen stated he would look into the number of school districts who have completed the training, and would share that information with Rixner.

Moravec asked Lorenzen if he had any leads on where they could get b-roll video footage of Iowa for the hotel/motel training video. Lorenzen stated that he would talk with the strategic communications team, as he thinks they would have some footage for this.

Reding asked what Truckers Against Trafficking was currently doing. Lorenzen replied and stated that they are training law enforcement around the nation. He also noted that they are expanding into Canada pretty extensively. Lorenzen also expressed that they have had some struggles with the National Human Trafficking Hotline which is run by Polaris and the quality of phone service. Some people are unable to connect. They are digging in to see if this is a funding or a leadership issue, but he stated how this is a backbone piece and is crucial.

III. Approval of Consent Agenda (Belitsos)

- Motion to approve the June 8th, 2021 meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors.
- Motion to approve the Acting Treasurer's report for May and June 2021.
- Motion to accept with regret the resignation of Lauren Camp.
- Motion to approve Tom Barr as a proxy for Alka.
- Motion to approve Julia White as a proxy for Ruth Buckels.
- Motion to Authorize the Best Practice and Research Committee to form an IBAT subcommittee to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Iowa Secretary of State Office to collaborate on the creation and implementation of an IBAT program.

The IBAT subcommittee is to draft an MOU that details the work plan for the NAHT. That MOU will be presented to the Network Board at its August 10th meeting for discussion and approve or deny the MOU.goo

Belitsos asked if anyone had any questions on the consent agenda. Tinsman had a typo change on page 10 of the minutes, which should be changed to HF 452. Belitsos assured the board that it will be changed before being posted on the website. Belitsos called for a vote and declared that the consent agenda **passed unanimously**.

IV. Update from Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Human Trafficking Instructor and discussion of growing concern about training needs of older law enforcement officers and those in rural communities (Devon Greiter)

Greiter started by stating that it has been hard to get training done with law enforcement due to COVID-19, since they are essential personnel. However, over the last few months they have been engaging with law enforcement partners to try to get some in-person training completed.

One thing Greiter has noted is that working in tandem with the understanding of what human trafficking is, that they also need to be working to explain trauma, and to help law enforcement officers understand how to best interact with individuals who have experienced trauma. Greiter explained how important it is to work on scenario based training, as this is what makes law enforcement feel most comfortable with moving forward with their training.

Another thing Greiter explained was how important multi-disciplinary training is. By doing this, there would be more cohesion to a lot of those responses and ultimately better service to the victims who are coming forward and working with the different disciplines so that they would consist of the basic understanding of what their roles are and how they can work together.

Greiter and her team are creating an e-learning platform as well for training. This will be crucial for smaller, rural agencies who can't really afford or don't have the time to send an individual to be trained. This is still in its infancy stage.

Fineran asked if they give the law enforcement officers local resources if they know someone who is being trafficked has been trafficked. Greiter responded, and said that is in part of their presentations, as well as a resource packet that they hand out.

Fineran also noted that depending on the situation, sometimes it is better to have a

victim receive care and support in an area or community that they were not trafficked in. She noted how much more challenging, and dangerous this can be for the victims. Fineran noted how Lila Mae's house has a referral form on their website that can be helpful for this process. Brown added that from her perspective, she thinks that we should always reach out to local administration first because advocates outside of the community aren't going to get there as fast. She noted that from the outside it may make sense to move them from the community, but for the victims it may be too much too soon. She noted that it would be better for them to communicate with an advocate to decide if the survivor is going to stay in the community or be moved.

V. Report from the Evaluation/Research and Best Practices Committee. (Moravec, Reding, Freudenberg, Davidson and Hilby)

- **Hotel/Motel Training Subcommittee and progress on the training video completion. (Davidson)**

Davidson began by stating that the filming done in Des Moines for the hotel/motel training video was a success, and that they are planning to film in Cedar Rapids on August 16th. Jerry Myers from the DPS production studio has been very helpful with this process.

One of the big issues was just resolved. This issue was when hotel/motel staff should call 911 or law enforcement somewhere else when presented with the issue of human trafficking. In the end they made a compromise which includes four main reasons you would call 911 in an event. These are: if someone asks for 911 to be called, if there is imminent danger present, if a minor is involved, or to report a tip. Any other situations outside of this, employees can make the call to 911, or use the provided resources including the national human trafficking hotline, and the Iowa Victim Call Center. Davidson also noted that she would suggest that the hotel/motel staff should have a relationship with the local police who they can contact instead of just dialling 911.

Moravec also mentioned the idea of having a screening of the video once it is completed. He mentioned the idea of inviting the executive committee, others who have worked on it, and those who have sponsored it financially, or with their own support. The video is aimed to be completed in September.

Rixner asked a question about the implementation of this video. She wanted to know if we would be there in person to present this, or if this is something we would send out for training. Moravec explained that this is just a tool for our presentations, and can help take off some pressure from the volunteers, so they can focus on answering questions instead. He also noted that everyone will receive access to this video, either through a link, or a DVD version.

- **Discuss entering a collaboration with the Iowa Secretary of State to create a new awareness training and recognition program to be called Iowa Businesses Against Trafficking. (Moravec and Reding)**

Reding began by sharing information about the Texas business human trafficking awareness program. The Iowa SOS wants to replicate the program started in Texas. Iowa would become the second state to implement a business against trafficking program.

After many revisions of this document, it was decided that we needed to have an MOU to decide what should be on it. This MOU was accepted by the Secretary of State, and now it is just waiting for a signature.

Rixner voiced three concerns with this MOU. The first being a few typos throughout the document. The second being that she was surprised that the Secretary of State wants to spread the information about the Stay at Home program so broadly as they are planning to spread it. She was wondering if there is a danger within this. Reding responded to this and stated that the Secretary of State was given grant money to promote this, and they are combining the safe at home program with the educational piece, to go in to businesses and educate them on human trafficking. Reding also stated that she doesn't think we will see much of the Safe at Home program, and that it was the financial vehicle that they are using to promote this program.

The final concern Rixner had was if we should really be requiring us to choose two businesses for outstanding anti-trafficking service awards. She noted sometimes we may not have any outstanding businesses, and sometimes we might have more than two we would like to recognize. Moravec responded to this and stated that the outstanding anti-trafficking awards will help to draw attention to the new IBAT. The awards will be presented in January. Since the MOU is a committee recommendation it does not require a second. Belitsos asks for any added discussion. Hearing none he called for a voice vote. The MOU was **passed unanimously**.

- **Addressing/Ending the Demand Subcommittee and Trafficking Free Zones (Freudenberg)**

Freudenberg noted that Mary Lichtenberg, Eileen Miller and Jody Tompkins are really the ones who ran with the handouts committee. Freudenberg has been in the process of changing jobs, and she has not had as much time to devote to this, but they have stepped up.

- **Best Practice for Survivor Services Subcommittee (Hilby)**

Hilby explained how her interns would contact a list of service providers 2 or 3 times to get individual responses to the proposed best practices document. Finfrock stated that the majority of people who got back to her did not have many revisions. The biggest thing that some people were unsure of was the screening process, and what people think that should look like. Other than that, she said everyone thought it was very thorough and had pretty good things to say about it. Anderegg reported that she got similar responses. One important note she made was that Kathleen Davis from the domestic abuse resource center was requesting permission if she included some of those sections in their own best practices document.

Hilby asked the board if everyone could go through the best practices document and send her any revisions to be made. She asked if these could be completed by August 31st so she can make those changes so the document can be voted on in the September Network board meeting.

Long noted a concern she had, and asked if in the future we could avoid sending such a long document all sent out at once. The document did not have page numbers. She noted that with a full time job, she is very overwhelmed with this important document, and did not have time to go through it as deeply as she had wanted. She suggested that in the future we send out pieces of this at a time, not all at once. Moravec noted that this is a living document, and every year we will be revisiting and making changes to it. Davidson asked how exactly this document was going to be used, but Belitsos responded that this would be a topic on next month's agenda.

VI. Report from Fundraising Committee. (Kyker, Freudenberg, Forsyth & Belitsos)

On July 30th the committee sent out an appeal letter to anyone who subscribes to the blog posts, and who is on the board. It was a non-celebration event to be held at Hobbits Hill Llama Farm. It was basically inviting people to not attend an event, but to rather give a donation instead. So far, we have raised \$1,600 with checks still coming in. Kyker also encouraged the board members to make their once annual gift to the network. Donations to the non-event count as the once annual gift. Belitsos confirmed that just over half of the board has completed this gift.

Kyker explained how Tinsman made a planned gift through the Community Foundation, and sent a \$3800 check to help the Legislative Advocacy Committee. This is a very generous gift, and a big boost to the NAHT Legislative Committee

Barr also noted that a check should be in the mail to the NAHT for \$1300 from the West Liberty Rotary Club. This was from their special event on July 30th for the World Day

Against Trafficking which was in person. Rixner asked if he could explain what they did. Barr explained that they had a free will donation meal offered, from food that was all donated to Rotary. They had t-shirts from Chains Unbroken, and also handouts from Truckers Against Trafficking, as well as a video of three survivors from Iowa speaking. Barr also noted that they taught guests the international hand signal for help me.

Belitsos thanked Barr and noted that this is the third year that the West Liberty Rotary Club has donated to the Network.

VII. Update from Survivor Service Provider Collaboration. Plans for Thursday, September 2nd 9am quarterly meeting. (Hardin, Buckels, Rohrs & Davidson)

Traci Stubbe is the proxy for Rohrs who is on maternity leave. Stubbe is absent today. Davidson reminded everyone that the next quarterly meeting will be on Thursday, September 2nd at 9am.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:04 pm.

Fineran also made one ending announcement. Lila Mae's house has an opening for an executive director and director of development combination. She asked if you know anyone who is interested or has a background in human trafficking and development, to send Fineran there resume or a contact from them.