

**Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (NAHT)  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 19, 2018, 2:30 to 4 p.m.  
Conference Call**

**Present:** George Belitsos (Chair), Jan Beran (Treasurer), Teresa Davidson, Sr Shirley Fineran, Paul Fitzgerald, Alyse Hardin, Taylor Houston, Katie Kyker, Elizabeth Quinn, Shirlee Reding, Bernadette Rixner, Alissa Stoehr, Maggie Tinsman, Mike Tupper, Suzanne Wright

**Excused:** Joy Fopma, Jennie Kerger, Stephen O'Meara

**Absent:** Liz Cox, Angela Davis

**Guests:** Carly Ross US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Des Moines Field Office Director  
Steffani Simbric, Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, Human Trafficking Instructor  
Lauren Camp, Iowa Legal Aid, Human Trafficking Attorney  
Carla Ray, Iowa Attorney General, Office to Combat Human Trafficking  
Gretchen Brown-Waech, Iowa Attorney General, Office to Combat Human 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. Belitsos announced that O'Meara has regrettably resigned, and Belitsos will send the resignation letter to all NAHT Board members. O'Meara has been a great asset to the NAHT and a leader in the fight against trafficking in both Iowa and Nebraska. Belitsos has nominated O'Meara for an Outstanding Service Award.

Belitsos welcomed and thanked the 2 presenters and 3 guests for participating in today's meeting.

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

The Agenda was reviewed. Belitsos reminded he emailed information on #Giving Tuesday November 27, to all NAHT Board members and encouraged the 3 NAHT Board members who have not given, along with any other NAHT Board members, to make a donation on Giving Tuesday. Facebook has committed to match up to \$7 million which means calling early on November 27.

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

- Motion to approve the minutes of the October 15 meeting of the NAHT Board of Directors.
- Motion to approve the Treasurer's report -- as of November 1, \$105.01 in savings and \$1,993.64 in checking
- Motion to nominate Roxanne Riesberg to represent DHS on the Network Board of Directors
- Motion to approve designing and printing Network Rescue Stickers at a cost of \$200 for 1,000 stickers

Executive Committee **motion to approve** the Consent Agenda. Beran **amended** the Treasurer's report to \$1,380 in checking and \$100.01 in savings. **Motion carried** unanimously.

**Progress Report from the Legislative Advocacy Committee (Davis and Tinsman)**

Tinsman reported that the Committee is specifically focused on the 4 NAHT legislative priorities approved at the September 17, 2018 NAHT Board meeting. Tinsman updated the Board on progress on the priorities.

1. *NAHT requests the creation and implementation of the Mandatory Reporter Training and Certification Policy Work Group, as passed by the 2018 Iowa Legislature in order to provide formal recommendations for action for improvement of Iowa's current Mandatory Reporter law to the Iowa Legislature.*

The Work Group is making a report by December 15 on what changes should be made to the Mandatory Reporter Training. The proposal is that the DHS will put the Mandatory Reporter training on the web and everyone will take it from there. Two different trainings are proposed: one for child abuse (including human trafficking), and one for adult abuse. Re-certification is proposed to change from every 5 years to every 3 years.

Davidson reported that hospitals are resisting these changes because they believe that two different trainings (child and adult) and more frequent trainings (every 3 instead of every 5 years) will take too much time. Davidson reported that one of the efforts of the NAHT Board will be to convince hospitals to use the DHS training and not some other mandatory reporter training.

2. *NAHT proposes a framework to approach the public-school system for improving their current education, awareness, and reporting policy regarding child sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention training in schools.*

Tinsman reported all NAHT Board members need to help with this action step. Each Board member will be given names of legislators to talk to on the Day on the Hill January 17. Belitsos reminded that on January 17 Reynolds will also be signing a proclamation designating January as Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Education month. Five Outstanding Service Awards will also be presented, and 4 of the 5 have already been nominated.

Tinsman asked if Belitsos is re-writing the proclamation used last year, as well as the press release. Belitsos said the Governor's Office does the press release. Belitsos will utilize the same proclamation as 2018, but a few dates and words will be updated. Belitsos asked Tinsman and Davis to please write a press release for NAHT's use, not for the Governor's Office.

Tinsman noted that there will be a podium in the Capitol Rotunda where the proclamation will be read by Governor Reynolds. Belitsos will bring signage for a table and literature to pass out.

3. *NAHT requests that the Iowa Legislature enact legislation to expand and improve anti-human trafficking laws.*

Tinsman said prior proposed anti human trafficking legislation needs to be researched and perhaps some of the prior legislation should be re-introduced and improved. The current Iowa anti-trafficking code provisions are being researched. Anti-trafficking bills have not yet been drafted.

Wright reported that Lindsey James, a new Iowa House of Representatives member, is interested in introducing legislation on human trafficking. James requested human trafficking information, which Wright provided. James offered to help with anti-trafficking legislation, and Tinsman requested that Wright contact Davis about this legislator's interest. Tinsman will inform the Committee of the interest shown by Representative James.

4. *NAHT supports the restoration of state funding to the Victim Services Division of the Iowa Attorney General's Office.*

Tinsman reported that the IA Attorney General's Office asked for level funding in 2019 for the Office to Combat Human Trafficking, as they feared they'd be cut again. The appropriation for the Victim Services Division was cut 20% last year. Tinsman said NAHT should support the Attorney General's request although it does not include the 20% cut. Belitsos would still like to see the 20% restored. Belitsos asked if Brown-Waech had any updated information, and Brown-Waech didn't think there had been any change in the level funding that the AG's office is requesting. Tinsman asked Brown-Waech to notify NAHT if the Attorney General's Office does not wish the NAHT to stand by its priority to restore the 20% cut. Belitsos reminded the Board that last year the NAHT had a priority to restore funding to the Office to Combat Human Trafficking, and that half of the funding cut was restored.

## **Report of the Research, Evaluation and Best Practice Standards Committee (Houston and Reding)**

Houston reminded that the report of the last 2 Committee meetings were sent to all Board members by Belitsos. These minutes note that the Subcommittee has changed its name to Research and Best Practices Committee. The Research and Best Practices Committee amended and approved the mission statement which Houston presented at the October NAHT Board meeting. The final mission statement approved by the Committee is:

The mission of the Research and Best Practices Committee of the Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (NAHT) is to research and identify best practices and resources available to those individuals, groups, and organizations providing victim services to human trafficking survivors in the state of Iowa. All information collected will be provided to the NAHT Board of Directors and to the NAHT's Survivor Services Collaboration Committee in support of their goals. In addition, the Committee will also provide continual analysis of how anti-trafficking laws and policies are implemented throughout the state of Iowa in order to support the NAHT's Legislative Advocacy Committee's objectives. Members of the Research and Best Practices Committee will be appointed priority goals using the "3P" paradigm—prosecution, protection, and prevention—set forth in both the Palermo Protocol and the United States' Trafficking Victims and Protection Act, as a guide for achieving its goals.

Research and Best Practices Committee members have decided what they want to do within the context of the Committee going forward. One Committee members, Cein Moran, will collect data on arrests and prosecutions surrounding the state's trafficking laws. Moran believes it will be helpful for the NAHT Legislative Committee to have information on how laws are created and developed, and the extent to which the laws are being effectively utilized by law enforcement and agencies. Currently, Moran is gathering data. Since Moran is a state employee and unable to request information from other state departments, Houston will sign the letters which will request data from Iowa state departments. An example of data needed is the reason for arrest and resulting final reason for prosecution. Another example of data needed is data on crimes related to trafficking i.e., pimping, soliciting, prostitution, and pandering. The NAHT Executive Committee members gave tips on where to look for data, including CJJP.

Another project of the Research and Best Practices Committee is a literary review of labor trafficking on labor trafficking identifiers and barriers to victim services for marginalized populations. Houston has created 2 Google docs to store the literature review, and other Committee members will add any relevant literary information.

Rachel Pierce, another Committee member, will examine human trafficking prevention projects in other states. This research will look beyond the nonprofits providing direct service and examine, for example, Task Forces which have been developed in states to prevent trafficking. Pierce will provide the information to the NAHT Legislative Advocacy Committee to be used in drafting bills to create legislative ways of preventing human trafficking in Iowa.

Another Committee member and NAHT Board member, Stoehr, plans to research how different universities are providing information through classes, speakers, programming, etc., to prevent trafficking. Belitsos asked Stoehr for further information on the steps being taken to gather data on human trafficking college courses. Stoehr replied that the research will start with what anti-human trafficking information is being offered in classes at Big 12 schools. Stoehr will continue researching other universities through other contacts. Stoehr will start by identifying the classes and continue with the next step of identifying what other opportunities students have to become educated about human trafficking. Stoehr noted that social media plays a significant part in the curriculum on human trafficking, including her Sociology course at Iowa State University. Stoehr hopes to work with staff at other universities and plans to present an update to the NAHT Board in the next month or so.

The Research and Best Practices Committee will report progress at a future NAHT Board meeting.

Houston relayed that Moran pointed out there might be a charge for some of the data, and Belitsos reported there is not enough donated money in the budget for this type of expense.

Brown-Waech would like to have a conversation with Houston about what data Brown-Waech might have access to. Brown-Waech offered her help to the Committee and suggested Houston also contact the Iowa Department of Public Health which might be able to guide Houston to more data.

Brown-Waech noted that “prevention” means different things to different agencies/departments. For example, Houston is thinking of educating people as a way to prevent human trafficking while Brown-Waech might be referring to homicide prevention. Houston will remind Pierce to specifically define “prevention.”

Rixner asked if social media is being examined in the prevention research efforts. Houston noted that the Research and Best Practices Committee needs to examine how social media is contributing to trafficking, especially of teens and young adults. Houston hopes that social media might be used as an advantage in stopping human trafficking.

### **Presentation on \$300,000 trafficking grant to the Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (Carly Ross)**

Belitsos congratulated Ross on the Committee for Refugees and Immigrants being awarded this federal grant. Ross noted that this is a new area for the Committee for Refugees and Immigrants and hopes that the NAHT Board can share information and resources with the Committee. NAHT Board member Houston is part of the team for this new grant and will be the evaluator. Ross thanked Belitsos for recommending Houston and for writing a letter of support for the grant.

Ross gave some background information on the Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. The Committee is based in Washington DC and has over 100 years of experience. There are 8 regional offices around the country, including Des Moines which was established in 2010. The Des Moines Office focuses on refugees selected and approved by the Department of State to resettle in the US.

In the past, the Committee has received a small Trafficking Assistance Grant from the Attorney General’s Office. An example of a client served by this previous grant was a mother trafficked to Saudi Arabia. When her child became sick, they were returned to the US, and she was able to escape the trafficker. She was brought to Iowa and provided financial support and services through this grant.

This new federal grant is called TAPS (Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Services) and has a 3-year funding cycle. The total is \$359,000. The Committee will focus on capacity building the first year. How can the Committee work with human trafficking projects already in existence? The second and third years will provide direct service, focusing on foreign born labor trafficking victims. Beran asked if the direct service will be limited to Labor Trafficking, and Ross clarified that the program will serve both labor and human trafficking survivors, both domestic and foreign born.

Davidson asked for Ross’s contact information as Davidson has a client from another country who is in trouble and would like to see if Ross can help. Belitsos will send out Ross’s contact information and a one-page description of the program. Belitsos will also include this information in the next blog post.

Beran asked if a foreign-born trafficked client currently being served by the Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance would be eligible for this program. Ross asked Beran to send information on this client.

Ross is currently in the budget approval stage of the grant. Ross will be hiring a full-time case manager in the new year and would like recommendations from the NAHT Board. Belitsos said several who receive the blog post are interested in finding work in this area, and Belitsos will include the job postings on his blog.

Belitsos asked Ross to come back in a few months to report and Ross agreed. Belitsos invited Ross to also sit in on monthly Board meetings and will add her to the mailing list.

### **Update on Network Rescue Sticker Project**

Belitsos updated Board members on the Rescue Sticker Project. NAHT had been working with In Our Back Yard which provides Freedom stickers to states across the country. The stickers have the 800 number for the national trafficking hotline. NAHT requested that the stickers distributed in Iowa include the Iowa hotline number. In

Our Backyard decided to distribute its stickers to Iowa convenience store chains that also have locations across the country. In Our Backyard will distribute stickers to convenience store headquarters which will send them to their stores. Their stickers will not include Iowa's hotline number since these chains have locations in other states.

Therefore, NAHT has created and will distribute 2,000 stickers with Iowa's hotline numbers in addition to the national hotline number, primarily to hospitals, clinics, and transportation centers, and not chain convenience stores since In Our Backyard is sending their stickers to them. Houston has a student group who will take on the distribution of the stickers. Belitos will announce the distribution process in the blog post along with student contact information. Anyone who wants stickers should contact the students and request the number of stickers needed. The students will mail the stickers along with an information on how to get permission to put up the stickers. Belitos will also send stickers to each Board member and to regional coalitions.

The Board has already approved the printing of our own stickers. Wright asked if there is a charge for the stickers, and Belitos said no, there is donor covering the charge of designing and printing the stickers, and NAHT should be able to cover postage.

### **Presentation on Iowa Victim Services Call Center 114 sex trafficking and 30 labor trafficking calls for last fiscal year (Jessica Rohrs)**

Rohrs was not on the call due to a crisis situation at the Call Center. Belitos noted that Rohrs sent him data on sex and labor trafficking calls and he had emailed this data to NAHT Board members. Rohrs reported 114 unduplicated sex trafficking calls (192 duplicated), 44 labor trafficking cases (30 unduplicated). Rohrs will be asked by Belitos to reschedule for the January 17 meeting to be held at the State Capitol Building.

Fineran had previously asked that labor and sex trafficking calls be separated and was happy to see that this has been done. Fineran finds shared separate information more effective in presentations.

Belitos noted that Iowa Victim Services Call Center was pleased their phone numbers is included on the NAHT Rescue stickers.

### **Report of the Survivor Services Collaboration Committee (Fopma, Fineran, Davidson)**

Fineran and Davidson couldn't attend the last meeting of the Survivor Services Collaboration Committee. Brown-Waech attended and reported that the Committee discussed 2019 goals as well as the National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance which is a national organization of service providers for survivors of human trafficking. There was discussion about implementing minimum best practices standards in Iowa. Belitos reported that the NAHT asked the Committee to work on best standards for direct service of providers to survivors. Committee members talked about going to national conferences to learn what other states are doing. The next meeting of the Committee is January 8, from 9 to noon, at the YSS Jacobson Center, 420 Kellogg, Ames.

### **Presentation on Law Enforcement Academy and community human trafficking trainings (Steffani Simbric)**

Belitos thanked Simbric for attending today's meeting and reporting to NAHT. Simbric primarily instructs on human trafficking at the Academy but also provides training on the community level.

Since July, Simbric has hosted 7 community trainings around the state: Council Bluffs, Sioux City, Ottumwa, West Liberty, Grinnell, Nevada, Cedar Rapids. Trainings had been held in Marshalltown and Mason City prior to July. So far, Simbric has trained over 600 persons.

The trainings are geared to law enforcement, but any professionals working with trafficking victims are welcome to attend. Most trainings have a capacity of 50, and most trainings have been full, and Simbric can't keep up with demand. Western Iowa has a waiting list. There are still many in law enforcement who haven't been trained on identifying and investigating trafficking. Simbric has been adapting the curriculum as needed to fit the community and the needs of professionals attending.

When providing a training, Simbric always partners with local professionals who work in anti-trafficking efforts or provide direct services for survivors. Simbric also provides a program for groups such as conservation groups. Simbric provides a training flyer to the local partner and the local partner shares with all local law enforcement and others in their network. The trainings are always advertised on the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy website. Since Simbric has no budget for food, local partners, such as local law enforcement or the county attorney's office, provide the lunch.

Simbric is currently setting up the training schedule for January to June 2019. Included in the schedule are: Ft Dodge (January 10, Iowa Falls Community College), Marshalltown, Dubuque, Ames, and Storm Lake. Hopefully, the education on trafficking can be carried forward around the state.

In addition to local trainings, Simbric provides a basic class on human trafficking at the Law Enforcement Academy, sort of human trafficking 101. Simbric is trying to get the program off the ground, but there are requests for a more advanced training, especially by law enforcement. An advanced training curriculum is in Simbric's long-term goals. Simbric is evaluating if the advanced training would be only for law enforcement or for community groups, too.

Fineran asked that the places that have been trained be listed on the NAHT website. Simbric is willing to share with NAHT Board members a list of all police departments which have completed a training.

Simbric will attend a national human trafficking investigation training in December and will share the information with law enforcement. Simbric will also provide a training at the Jail School in 2019.

Rixner and Fineran informed Simbric that they think someone in the area will partner with Simbric for a training. There is a waiting list, but Simbric does not plan to return to Sioux City area until later in 2019 or in 2020.

Tupper said Simbric did a great job with the training in Marshalltown, and, although he had already had human trafficking training, but still learned more.

Fineran noted that she had done training in Denison and a legislator showed up who is very interested in moving Erin's Law through the legislature.

Belitsos asked if any Ames professionals attended the Nevada training. Simbric said, yes, staff from Ames Police Department, Story County Sheriff Dept, and every Police Department in Story County,

Quinn agreed that, yes, the training is basic, but it is very beneficial and Simbric does an incredible job

Reding asked if Simbric had trained Des Moines Law Enforcement. Simbric has served Pleasant Hill and thinks there will be others who want the training in the Des Moines area. Reding will send Simbric the name of a contact from Des Moines who would probably want to partner with Simbric to provide a training in the Des Moines area.

Hardin asked if anyone from the Quad Cities area has contacted Simbric, and Simbric said no. Hardin will push for it.

Wright asked if she should contact the Police Department in Dubuque. Simbric said she is currently working on a date for a training in Dubuque in the spring. Wright is ready to help and will feed the group.

Belitsos thanked Simbric and asked for an update in a few months. Belitsos will add Simbric to the NAHT Board mailing list. Simbric thanked the NAHT Board.

### **Reports from Hotel/Motel training projects in Central Iowa, Western Iowa, Eastern Iowa, and Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, and Iowa City (Reding, Davidson, O'Meara, and Rixner)**

Reding is working on revisions for the Central Iowa Hotel/Motel Training Project curriculum. There were quite a few people who signed up to attend the third hotel/motel training session in October, but only 25 showed up. Reding wonders if Central Iowa should have a fourth training seminar early next year.

The Des Moines Coalition will host a labor trafficking seminar, scheduled for January 17 at 6 p.m. One speaker is from Braking Traffik. Another speaker is from the Minneapolis area and coordinated the human trafficking prevention for the Super Bowl. Belitsos will post the flyer on the NAHT website as soon as Reding sends it to him.

Rixner reported that 50 people attended the hotel/motel training in October in western Iowa. There will be another hotel/motel training on December 11. The large hotel chains in western Iowa are giving positive and enthusiastic response about the hotel/motel training. Smaller family owned chains do not seem to be interested.

Davidson reported for Cedar Rapids/Waterloo/Iowa City. The feedback Davidson has received on hotel/motel trainings is that a shorter training is preferred. The Nebraska Coalition which provides the current training did not want to do a shorter training, so Davidson created a shorter one and supplements the training with posters and educational materials for the hotels. Davidson has received positive feedback on the shorter training. Rixner, Belitsos, Reding, and Wright asked that Davidson share the shorter training be shared with them.

Other Board members agreed that hotels would like hotel/motel training more tailored to the local area. However, the Nebraska Coalition is not willing to make changes to the established hotel/motel training.

Wright reported that the first hotel/motel training to train the trainers will be held December 5 at the Mt Carmel motherhouse in Dubuque. Potential trainers may attend either a session in the afternoon or one in the evening. Wright reported that Dubuque has scheduled a press conference for January 11, Human Trafficking Day. The Mayor, legislators, and other local leaders will attend the Press Conference to announce the kick-off of the hotel/motel project. Grand Harbor Hotels would like to have their staff trained first, and this will be announced at the press conference.

A training will be held on November 27 for Best Western Chain managers from Ames and Dubuque. Might be able to use the shortened course Davidson developed.

Belitsos asked for NAHT Board members to send him all the dates of upcoming trainings and events and Belitsos will post on the NAHT blog and website calendar.

### **Partnering with Schools**

Tinsman asked who is training Teens Against Trafficking youth and asked how many schools have Teens Against Trafficking. Belitsos reported Ruth Buckels and YSS staff are doing the trainings and that 65 schools have Teens Against Trafficking chapters. Tinsman asked Belitsos to schedule Buckels to report at the next NAHT meeting on how they train in schools.

Rixner reported that Monona County Health Dept provided a human trafficking program, Set Me Free, in all health classes at West High, as well as a day in Onawa in grades 9 to 12. One counselor had students complete a Red Sand Project. After the school presentations and Red Sand Project had been completed, Monona County Health Dept did an evening presentation at the High School for parents and other interested adults from the Onawa area.

Fineran provided trafficking education to grades 7 to 12 in Holstein.

Davidson has been partnering with Cedar Rapids schools to provide human trafficking education as the schools lost their human trafficking staff member.

### **Other**

There was a short discussion about Marcy's Law. Reding reported that the Coordinator of passing Marcy's Law is on the Des Moines Task Force and recently gave a speech about it. Reding said Marcy's Law wants victims to have more constitutional rights. So far, not much has been done to pass Marcy's Law in Iowa, and Tinsman said that it was not on the NAHT priority list.

**Updates on efforts to adopt city massge 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), Cedar Rapids (pending), Marion (passed), Iowa City (passed), Coralville (passed), Ames Council hearing scheduled for January 2019, other cities? (All)**

No new cities were added

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Next Board of Directors Meeting, Monday, December 17, 2:30 to 4 p.m. (conference call)