

Iowa NAHT Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 15, 2020

Present: Shannon Findlay MD, Ruth Buckels, Dr. George Belitsos, Maggie Tinsman, Lori Freudenberg, Jessica Rohrs, Teresa Davidson, Mike Tupper, Dr. Joe Moravec, Shirlee Reding, Brenda Long, Alyse Hardin, Bernadette Rixner, Lauren Camp, Katie Kyker

Excused Absence: Roxanne Riesberg, Kim Hilby, Jonathan Causey

Absent: Sister Shirley Fineran

Guests: Angela Davis, Patti Reeves, Alka Khanolkar, Gretchen Brown-Waech

I. Call to order and roll call (Belitsos)

Belitsos declared a quorum and began the meeting at 2:32 PM. He informed the group that Mason Thomas, Technology Consultant, would be taking the minutes and had Mason introduce himself. Belitsos introduced the guests at today's meeting. He made special note that Alka Khanolkar is on today's consent agenda for election to the board and that her bio is in the Board packet.

II. Presentation and two-year report on Human Trafficking Victim Service Fellowship (Camp)

Lauren Camp presented her two-year report on the outcome of her fellowship and how she has learned a lot about human trafficking in Iowa. The Crime Victims Justice Fellowship started in July 2018 and Lauren just completed it this past July. She talked about she worked with human trafficking victims for Iowa Legal Aide. She started in Council Bluffs and was relocated to Cedar Rapids after 3 months. Lauren had just completed law school at Creighton University and was granted the two-year fellowship in human trafficking and placed with Iowa Legal Aide.

She received training as a trauma-informed lawyer and was given a statewide grant. She trained a total of 350 people during this experience, including attorneys, law enforcement, and community members. She spoke at two League of Women Voters events and thanked Dr. George for setting them up. Camp screened 202 potential victims of human trafficking. This process involved looking at clients for domestic violence, employment issues, and asking questions relating to trafficking. She ended up serving 109 survivor of human trafficking clients in two years. Some of these didn't involve direct court representation, but instead involved advice or referrals.

Lauren shared some additional statistics about her two year fellowship. She said only 4 of her clients were minor victims. The clients were close to 50/50 between males and females, with a little more females than males. She shared that only 22% of victims were under 25 years old and

77% were over 25. Another statistic was that 55% identified themselves as white and 45% non-white. Her caseload was also close to 50/50 between sex trafficking and labor trafficking victims. Camp mentioned that she got clients from group labor trafficking cases which might've affected some of the statistics.

Maggie Tinsman stated that victims often resist testifying against the trafficker. She asked if Camp found this to be true of her clients. Camp said that some accommodations can be made in special circumstances, but would like for there to be more ways to accommodate victims so they fear less.

Dr. George thanked Lauren for her report and her willingness for serving on the Board now that her fellowship has ended. He also mentioned to board members that Camp is a good speaker and advised the board if they need an attorney speaker in the future to reach out to her.

III. Approval of consent agenda (Belitsos)

- Motion to approve the August 11th meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors
- Motion to approve the acting Treasurer's report for August 2020
- Motion to approve the nomination of Iowa City Police Task Force for sex trafficking investigation which lead to five traffickers pleading guilty. Nomination submitted by Belitsos, Tupper, and Findlay.
- Motion to authorize the Board Chair to sign a guest editorial with the CEO of Prevent Child Abuse regarding the increase in child trafficking due to the pandemic.
- Motion to elect Alka Khanolkar to fill the vacant board seat. The nomination is jointly submitted by Maggie Tinsman, Katie Kyker, Lori Fruedenberg, and George Belitsos.
- Motion to authorize the Board Chair to submit an Iowa Non-Profit Recovery Fund Grant. The grant amount to be requested is \$4,058 and the funding is through the Federal CARES Act.

Tinsman asked if a portion of the Non-Profit Recovery Fund Grant could be used for legislative advocacy. Belitsos said that the grant ground rules state that these grants can't be used in any way to influence legislators. Belitsos reminded the Board that this grant has yet to be approved.

Maggie suggested using the West Liberty Rotary Club donation for legislative advocacy. Belitsos reported that these funds were designated by Rotary for hotel/motel and stickers and that a thank you letter has already been written. Maggie will ask West Liberty about re-designating the donation for legislative advocacy. Belitsos will need to have this change in writing from West Liberty.

Bernadette asked that since the executive committee is now only meeting quarterly, who is setting up the consent agenda. Belitsos is acting on behalf of the executive committee to prepare the consent agenda.

The August 11th meeting minutes were taken off the consent agenda since they were not yet completed and moved to the October 13th meeting for approval.

Maggie moved to approve the consent agenda excluding the August 11th board meeting minutes, Shirlee Reding seconded the motion.

Belitsos reported that the consent agenda passed unanimously

Now that Alka Khanolkar has been elected to fill the vacant position on the Board, Belitsos asked her to introduce herself.

Alka introduced herself to the board and thanked the Board for electing her to serve. Her interest in human trafficking goes back many years. She is governor-elect for Rotary District 6000 composed of 66 clubs in Iowa. Her goal for 2021 is to make anti-human trafficking projects the focus of her term as governor.

She has worked with Belitsos who is a member of Rotary and is the vice-chair of the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS). Alka met Maggie who is also a Rotarian and is a strong advocate. Alka talked about how trafficking is a global issue, and she is glad to be on the Iowa NAHT board to help fight trafficking. She feels strongly about it and will continue to take it up as her main initiative as district governor.

Belitsos says Alka's major human trafficking project will have a huge difference with the 4,000 Iowa Rotarians becoming aware of this global crime and volunteering their time. Belitsos noted that he, Tinsman, Fruedenberg, and Kyker are Rotarians. Chief Tupper stated that he is also a member of Rotary.

IV. Brainstorm with Angela Davis on legislative needs to be included in an Omnibus 2021 Bill (Tinsman)

Tinsman shared with the board that she has been talking to a variety of advocacy groups and asked Angela Davis to explain what the Legislative Advocacy Committee might be doing in 2021 by creating an Omnibus human trafficking Bill.

Davis gave a big picture snapshot of how Tinsman and her started talking about an Omnibus Bill and the different pieces of legislation that a bigger bill could encompass. They talked about a strategy to talk to engage enforcement, survivors, and prosecution to cover all of their ideas in one comprehensive legislation bill. She shared they might not have time to put together Omnibus Bill this session but this remains the goal.

Tinsman and Davis heard from providers at yesterday's Collaboration meeting. Iowa Service Providers had lots of ideas including funding for transitional housing, and an investigation task force. She said there is a potential pilot program that would loop in with a private human trafficking investigation firm that specializes in survivor rescue. Transitional housing reclassified to allow survivors of trafficking to have longer stays and be placed quicker. She shared this has many moving parts, she is confident that by this fall that they should have a result. At the Collaboration meeting yesterday, providers had the passage of a Safe Harbor Law as a priority for 2021. The Minnesota Safe Harbor Law has language to use in its legislation. She said that she agrees this is an important next step. The Collaboration wants the Safe Harbor bill to include not only minors but also adults.

Davis suggested that the plans to work with the Department of Public Safety to have funding to execute hotel/motel training law. Appropriation was promised by legislators to cover the costs of implementation, but was allocated to a different department within public safety and is not going to hotel/motel implementation. Davis said that if there is no state funding support, we should fundraise to allow the training to take place. Belitsos stated that Dr. Joe's committee is already working on a training program that will be free and carried out by trained volunteers.

Davis shared that she had spoken to the head of the Massage Therapy Association and they would like to expand the local ordinances to become a state law. Davis stated that right now there are a few counties with ordinances that are working very well and a statewide legislature might work well.

Belitsos reported that it was the NAHT working with the mayor and City Council of Johnston that got the legislature to give local control to cities to adopt ordinances to inspect massage businesses. Johnston was the first and there are now 23 Iowa cities with ordinances. Belitsos stated that we should not support a statewide massage bill unless it retained local control.

Rixner liked the idea of statewide law on massage parlors as long as local control is retained. Angela agreed that the language of the massage law should retain local enforcement. Massage businesses now want to work with the NAHT because they want to defend the reputation of ethical massage parlors. Belitsos reminded the Board that the City of Johnston received an outstanding service award from the NAHT because they became the first city in Iowa to pass an ordinance.

Alyse Hardin brought up how Davenport law enforcement rescued victims and didn't arrest them. She suggested that the language needs to be careful as to not punish the victims but rather the traffickers.

Rixner proposed several new laws. She said she wants a law to allow expungement of crimes committed by a survivor which occurred while being trafficked. This would make it much easier for survivors to get jobs and to successfully integrate back into society. She also suggested that survivors of trafficking be included in the rape shield law. Rixner asked for increasing penalties for buyers and traffickers. She will submit some wording based on the Nebraska Law.

Tinsman tried to work with the Iowa Supreme Court, to get the rape shield law amended which is where it is right now, but they haven't taken any action for two years. Rixner stated that we have waited long enough and that the legislature should take action in 2021.

Gretchen Brown-Waech read a line from a report to ask if certain legislative actions would help any survivors or hurt survivors.

Belitsos wrapped it up by saying thank you to Angela Davis for her work on improving public policy. He also asked if anyone has something to add, to email their ideas to Beltisos or Maggie Tinsman.

V. Report from Fundraising Committee. Ask board members who belong to service clubs such as Rotary to solicit a NAHT gift from their club, church, temple, or community foundation. Let them know that Covid-19 has resulted in a worldwide increase in the number of trafficked victims, especially children. (Kyker, Freudenberg & Belitsos)

Kyker says one of the biggest opportunities for board members to solicit grants is from community foundations. The pandemic has resulted in a large increase in child trafficking and this fact should help the NAHT to solicit donors and grants. Human trafficking victims have increased and gives the opportunity for the board to apply for these grants. She asked board members to ask their local community foundations for any support. Kyker brought up how we should get involved by asking service clubs, banks, and community foundations for a one-time gift and how they might be able to help fight human trafficking. Rotary clubs are another group to solicit. Please also consider soliciting a donation from your church or temple. Kyker also said that the NAHT is on Amazon Smile and to promote this to get NAHT donations from shopping on Amazon.

Belitsos asked board members to help raise funding for the NAHT. He also mentioned that the fundraising committee can help with preparing write ups or applications. The committee will soon send out an outline of reasons to support the NAHT.

Kyker said that they are looking for another member for the fundraising committee. Belitsos said some members might get a call to join this committee.

VI. Outcome of Survivor Service Provider Collaboration Zoom meeting held yesterday, Sept. 14th (Hardin, Buckels, Rohrs & Davidson)

Buckels reported for Rohrs who had to leave the meeting early. Buckels reported that there were 23 provider participants on the September 14th meeting to discuss 2021 legislation. Belitsos mentioned he sat in on yesterday's meeting and was impressed by the legislative needs identified by the Provider Collaboration.

VII. Report from the Evaluation/Research and Best Practices Committee. (Moravec & Reding)

Dr. Joe said that Teresa Davidson will be joining the Best Practices committee.

- Hotel/Motel Training Subcommittee

Dr. Joe said four entities are partnering to create the best practice module and it is in the progress of being made. The Johnson County Human Trafficking Coalition is helping with this. The Clinton Coalition is also helping. The Tri-state group made great contributions and put together a powerpoint this week. Having the entities come together provides the best possible outcome.

- Addressing/Ending the Demand Subcommittee

Moravec is exploring partnering with the U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking and wants to make the whole state a Trafficking Free Zone. The Institute made an education course with 20 modules to learn about trafficking, which could help the NAHT to share and teach more lowans. Iowa would be the first state to make itself a Trafficking Free Zone. This partnership could increase the number of volunteers and donations. He said it is important to involve more people in the community to get more people on the ground. Moravec and the Demand Subcommittee plans to put together a best practice document on the need to reduce the demand. Dr. Joe is excited about this and said there is great potential here.

- Best Practice for Survivor Services Subcommittee

Moravec mentioned that Paul Stageberg would be a good addition to the subcommittee which plans to develop a set of best practice standards for providers in Iowa.

VIII. Update presentation by regional coalitions. (those who did not report last month)

- Chains Interrupted and Cedar Rapids Coalition (Davidson)

Davidson shared big news that they hired a new executive director, who starts October 5th. Chains Interrupted is still focusing on human trafficking education, which has stalled due to Covid-19 and not being able to present in schools to students. Davidson also shared that they have a new education coordinator who is a volunteer. She mentioned that Chains Interrupted is working on five projects at the moment: an education project, hotel/motel project, a school prevention project, financial institution project, and medical project.

Chains Interrupted is developing a research directory but she said it will be tricky because of how it might be triggering for survivors. Mercy Medical Center has a protocol for victim identification.

She said that they are operating a new residential program known as Harbor House.

Davidson said that they are rolling out survivor service advocacy in Johnson County.

She also shared they are in the beginning phases of creating a texting hotline, but the project has been on hold because of Covid.

She shared some statistics from the Mercy Medical Center human trafficking program. In the fiscal year 2019, they assisted 58 survivor referrals. In the fiscal year 2020, they have already assisted 71 referrals and 8 more since July 1st. They increased marketing campaigns, and they have a support group for parents waiting until Covid-19 to have meetings in person. Davidson shared that 26 States have been impacted and 3 countries by their presentations.

Linda Smith, the founder of Shared Hope International, invited Davidson to Washington D.C. to meet with senators and congress.

Belitsos moved other coalition reports to top of October agenda due to time constraints

IX. Nebraska efforts to form a Coalition similar to the Iowa NAHT (Rixner & Reding)

Reding said that after the well attended Zoom meeting the Nebraska representatives came to the conclusion that they want to create a statewide coalition with their primary focus being on the survivor. They want to make sure that nothing they do should negatively impact the survivor. They started making a list of resources similar to the NAHT's resource directory. They want to go slow and do things the right way. Nebraska representatives decided to form a group of representatives from each region to gather ideas and then meet again in two weeks to decide which way to do things. They are also allowing everyone to participate if they want to.

X. Adjournment

George suggested the next October meeting be on Zoom since we had some technology problems on today's call with background noise due to some not being on mute.

Progress report from Gretchen Brown-Waech next meeting

Next Board of Directors Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 2:30-4:00 PM