

**Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (NAHT)**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, February 19, 2018, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Conference Call** 641-715-3650 Code: 874004#

**Present:** Jan Beran (Treasurer), Liz Cox (Vice Chair), Sr Shirley Fineran, Taylor Houston, Shirlee Reding, Bernadette Rixner, Maggie Tinsman (Secretary), Suzanne Wright

**Excused:** George Belitsos (Chair), Paul Fitzgerald, Brynne Howard, Jennie Kerger, Stephen O'Meara, Alissa Stoehr

**Absent:** Teresa Davidson, Joy Fopma, Erin Schneider

**Taking Minutes:** Margaret Epplin

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Cox. Roll call was taken.

**Review today's agenda. Any changes? (all)**

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

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

- Motion to approve January 17, 2018, meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors
- Motion to approve expenditure of up to \$200 for a Network Board meeting room for 4 pm April 18 at Prairie Meadows.
- Motion to approve the treasurer's report. As of January 29, the NAHT recorded \$,1777.14 in the savings account and \$2,482 in checking.
- Motion to invite Stefanni Simbric, Human trafficking Instructor for the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, to present at the March BOD Meeting.
- Motion to approve the award nomination form for the Iowa Outstanding AntiTrafficking Service Award.
- Motion to elect Alyse Egan, Braking Traffik/Family Resources Survivor Advocate, to fill the vacant NAHT Board seat formerly held by Marisa Mansfield.
- Motion to endorse and support the following 2018 legislative bills:
  - a. HF498 (Rep. Art Staed) Trauma Informed Care practices and suicide prevention center.
  - b. SF2056 (Senator Kevin Kenny) age appropriate sex abuse and antihuman trafficking school education.
  - c. SF2066 (Senator Matt McCoy) mandatory reporter workgroup to study training and certification requirements.
  - d. SF138 requiring school districts to conduct health visits for homeschooled children.
  - e. SF2034 prohibits placement of adopted children in home schools if the adoptive parents are receiving an adoption subsidy.
  - f. SF2029 (Senator Jochum) age-appropriate sexual abuse awareness and prevention for school-age children (consideration bill must move to shall).
  - g. SF2095 (Senator Rita Hart) Forced labor trafficking becomes felony penalty.

- h. No Bill number (Senator Mark Sigebart) increases penalty for traffickers of minors.
- Motion to add the National Trafficking Posting Law to the NAHT Legislative Agenda for 2018.
- Motion to set three legislative priorities: (1) Restoration of state funding for the Office to Combat Human trafficking, (2) Creation of a workgroup to examine mandatory reporter training, (3) Legislation to expand and improve anti-trafficking laws.

Tinsman **made a motion** to approve the Consent Agenda. **Second** by Reding. **Motion carried.**

**Report of the Legislative Advisory Council and the Legislative Advocacy Committee. Review top three legislative priorities and status of bills endorsed by the NAHT (Cox, Tinsman)**

Tinsman reviewed the list of bills listed in the Consent Agenda. As far as she knows, SF 2066 (McCoy) is the only bill that made it through the funnel. Tinsman explained that without a majority party sponsor, currently Republican, the bills have no chance of being passed.

Cox reported on the progress of SF 2066 which establishes a group to study adding identifying human trafficking to the Mandatory Reporter training and certification requirements. This bill has been renamed Senate Study Bill 3127 (SSB 3127) and House Study Bill 665 (HSB 665) and passed through the funnel. The Senate bill to establish the study group passed through the Senate overwhelmingly. However, Cox shared a concern that the Senate bill did not specifically list all who would be involved in the study. The House bill was more specific. Cox calls on NAHT Board members to contact members of the House Human Resources Committee this week and ask them to specify in the House bill all who need to attend the study group and to bring the bill to the floor. Cox will email the contact information for the House Human Resources Committee to all NAHT Board members. Cox emphasized that there are 400,000 Mandatory Reporters in Iowa, and all departments with Mandatory Reporters, including, for example, Public Health, Public Safety/Law Enforcement and Education, should be required to attend the Study Group for the bill to be successful. Groups such as NAHT should attend.

Tinsman also reported that she is waiting on a return call from Sigebart's office for details of Item h on the Consent Agenda, sponsored by Republican Senator Sigebart, which might have made it through the funnel. Sigebart is chair of the Senate Human Resources Committee and sponsored this bill. Tinsman had given Sigebart a copy of the NAHT Legislative Priorities, and a week later Sigebart told her that he was "doing something to increase penalties" but didn't supply any details to Tinsman.

(Later in the afternoon, after the completion of the NAHT Board meeting, Stephen Eckley sent an email to all NAHT members reporting that Item h of the Consent Agenda is SF 2254 and that it made it through the funnel and passed out of subcommittee 13-0. This bill increases the penalties for the human trafficking of persons under the age of 18 to a Class B felony.)

Cox also asked NAHT Board members to ask questions at upcoming legislative breakfasts or forums. Specifically Board members should ask if the legislator has any interest in supporting the bill to establish a study group to add human trafficking to the Mandatory Reporter training. In addition, Cox requests that members ask that Study Group meetings be public and that NAHT would like to attend.

Rixner asked if it is a good idea to talk to local House and Senate representatives about ideas for legislation for 2019, even though the legislator might not have known clout in the legislature. Cox and Tinsman stated that, to be successful passing NAHT legislative priorities, as many legislators as possible from both parties need to be identified who are willing to support and champion the bills, regardless of their clout. Cox and Tinsman ask that NAHT Board members make calls and attend meetings held by local legislators to share the Legislative Priorities of NAHT. Cox explained in detail the process of getting a bill to a vote on the floor and emphasized that the bill needs to be ready to start the process by August. NAHT members should find collaborating legislators from both parties, and especially the majority party, to champion and support the bills, as legislators usually don't find collaborators on their own.

Tinsman reported on the funding for the Office to Combat Human Trafficking in the Department of Public Safety. This office has been heavily cut in both 2017 and 2018. Governor Reynolds suggested \$75,000 be put in the

budget for this office. Tinsman stated that at least \$150,000 is needed and this should be the amount in the 2019 budget. Cox will investigate which appropriation bill contains the DPS funding.

Taylor noted that the state is talking about tax cuts and expressed concern that there will not be adequate state funding for welfare services with a tax cut. Cox added that said that online shopping has significantly cut Iowa sales tax income. Houston asked if there is action in the legislature to require online merchants collect Iowa sales tax, and Cox reported that this wasn't brought up this session.

Reding reported that McCoy is thinking seriously about leaving the Senate.

Rixner noted that it is too late to pass the National Trafficking Posting Law in 2018 which was recently added to the NAHT Legislative Priorities and is listed in the Consent Agenda . Tinsman said it would only be successful as an amendment to an appropriations bill. Cox said this legislative priority should be moved to the 2019 NAHT Legislative Priorities.

### **Report from the Hotel/Motel Employee Training Projects (Reding, Davidson) O'Meara, updates from any other areas of the state?**

Reding reported that there will be a second set of trainings on March 8. 32 people have signed up for the training. O'Meara is coming on March 8 to help with training. Reding and O'Meara will have a conference call tomorrow to finalize details, O'Meara doesn't want to do the whole training. Once Reding knows the portions of the training that O'Meara will provide, she will contact others who have been previously trained to provide portions of the training. Katie Stringer, the Project Coordinator, will help with the training. In time, Reding and Stringer will be able to coordinate and conduct the training without help from O'Meara.

Reding asked anyone interested in attending the training to contact her. The training is being advertised on George's blog. Reding was involved in a January human trafficking presentation, and several who attended that meeting have signed up to attend the March 8 Train the Trainer.

Cox asked if the number of people trained is being tracked and if there is any follow up. Reding reported that the Project Coordinator Stringer maintains a list of those who have been trained along with a list of the assigned hotels. There is a Pre-Test, Post-Evaluation. Each trainer is individually contacted six months after the training. Reding reported that she has gotten a lot of good feedback from hotels who have been trained.

O'Meara was unable to attend this meeting, but sent a detailed email with updates on trainings from other areas of Iowa.

### **Updates on first readings of City message ordinances in Newton (passed), Marshalltown (introduced but on hold), Altoona, Sioux City, other cities? (all)**

Rixner reported that massage therapists in Sioux City are actively opposing the massage ordinance. Massage therapists believe that human traffickers who currently using massage parlors as a front, will move their operations to something other than massage, such as reflexology. Massage therapists want the state to pass restrictive legislation. Tinsman said that this issue should not go back to the state legislature and should be controlled on the local level. Currently local governments don't have staff to police massage parlors.

No one knew why Marshalltown's massage ordinance is on hold.

Houston reported that he and Davidson are talking to people in Cedar Rapids about the massage ordinance. They are trying to get massage therapy support first before talking to city councils.

Other Items:

Rixner explained that she has been trying to add Braking Traffik as a resource but finds that the link to the Braking Traffik website is broken. Braking Traffik eliminated their individual website when they incorporated into Family Resources. Tinsman stated that she is Chair of the Braking Traffik Advisory Council, and that Braking Traffik needs a website. Members will ask new NAHT Board member, Egan, who works for Braking Traffik, to explain at the next NAHT Board meeting.

Cox reported that Child Abuse Iowa has released RFPs for grants for child abuse prevention, and Cox needs people to read and score the grants. NAHT Board members who are interested should contact Cox. Beran expressed interest and will email Cox.

Cox reported that the Child Abuse Iowa will hold its annual conference April 9 to 11, 2018. A track on human trafficking has been added, and Cox invited NAHT Board members to attend. Usually, about 600 people attend. Cox requested nominations for the 2018 Iowa Child Advocate Award which will be presented to a state legislator at the conference. Cox will send all NAHT Board members a link for the nomination form.

Wright reported that she has been asked to do a training on the basics of human trafficking at the Eastern Iowa City Clerk conference. Wright asked for suggestions. Tinsman said she would help and suggested Wright contact Egan who might have a human trafficking video Wright can use.

### **Adjournment**

Next Executive Committee Meeting is March 5, 2:30-4:00. (conference call)

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