

Meeting Minutes

Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery Board of Directors Meeting

November 8th, 2022

Present: Tom Barr, Shirley Fineran, Stephanie Olson, Maggie Tinsman, Alka Khanolkar, John Chessser, Lyna Debner, Alyse Hardin, Linda Harrell, and Mike Tupper

Excused Absence: George Belitsos, Bernadette Rixner, and Jessica Hagin

Absent: None

Guests: Aaron Seydell, Gretchen Brown-Waech, Ann Thompson, and Chelsea Hoyer

1. Call to order. (Chessser)

Meeting was called to order at 2:31 pm.

2. Update from Legislative Committee on October 31 Safe Harbor Working Group meeting. Suggestions for 2023 legislative session from board members. (Tinsman)

Tinsman reported that last Spring the Legislative Advocacy Committee worked with legislators to bring HF 2464 to the 2022 legislative session, which would have established a safe harbor law for victims of human trafficking to seek expungement from criminal offenses that occurred while they were a victim of human trafficking. The bill passed the house but did not make it to the senate floor. As a result, the NAHT established a workgroup that includes legislators, social workers, and state agencies to attempt to find a way to get safe harbor passed. A current issue is that many of the agencies currently operate on their own and don't understand what each other do so they are hoping to encourage them to work more closely together. The goal is for everyone to recognize that these people are victims and not criminals.

Hoyer noted that they have had two productive meetings so far and they have discussed topics that include what safe harbor is, model language of other state's safe harbor laws, and where each party agrees/disagrees. One thing that Hoyer noted that has been brought up frequently is the need for funding to help with the programs described in the bill. Hoyer also noted that they have written up an initial draft with their selected language that each participant of the workgroup can read before the next meeting on November 21st.

Fineran asked what the funding would specifically be for. Hoyer responded that last year they asked for funding for victim's services but they have yet to finalize that. Tinsman noted that part of the funding would be for social services.

Barr asked if they have been able to clear some of the hurdles that were encountered with law enforcement last year and if having a survivor speak to law enforcement may help. Hoyer responded that they were able to show Nebraska's safe harbor bill to law enforcement and had a positive response to that so they are hopeful that the finalized language they use will be satisfactory. Hoyer also noted that she was open to having a survivor talk about some of law enforcement concerns at a future meeting.

Brown-Waech noted that it may not be the best idea to have a survivor go to a meeting yet while fundamental issues are still not agreed on. Olson agreed with Brown-Waech and that she thinks that education can happen without having to bring a survivor into a meeting.

Tinsman noted that if any board members had any legislation that they would like the Legislative Advocacy Committee to focus on to reach out to her by December 5th before their committee meeting. At this meeting, they will decide which legislation they would like to focus on for the upcoming year.

Khanolkar asked if Tinsman knew how much in funds the Legislative Advocacy Committee would need for the next year. Tinsman responded that they were not sure yet due to not knowing all legislation that they would be pursuing. However, Tinsman does know that they do need to pay \$5000 to Advocacy Strategy for their services in 2023.

3. Welcome returning and new board members (Chief Mike Tupper, Jessica Hagin, Stephanie Olson) and guest Ann Thompson (Chesser)

Chesser welcomed the two new board members who are Mike Tupper (who is returning to the board) and Stephanie Olson who is the Founder and Director of the Set Me Free Project. Tupper noted that he was glad to be back and serving on the Board of Directors.

Olson noted that she is also glad to join the Board of Directors and shared a little bit about the Set Me Free Project. The Set Me Free Project does prevention education and has traditionally gone into schools. Recently though they have switched to handing out curriculum to counselors and social workers in the schools and allowing them to present it in an effective way with help from the Set Me Free Project. They also received a research grant from the CDC, which will be led by the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Part of the project will be a rigorous evaluation and review of their curriculum and creation of a brand new perpetrator prevention curriculum. They will also be working with the Des Moines Public School system as part of the project. Part of the project will include community forums. As part of this project, the University of Nebraska Lincoln

is looking to fill a full-time coordinator position based in Des Moines and the Set Me Free project is looking to hire educators for this program.

4. Review and approval of Consent Agenda. Reminder: If you wish to remove any motion from the consent agenda for additional information or debate you may do so. No second is required. (Chesser)

- a. Motion to approve October 11th meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors. (see attached)
- b. Motion to approve the October Treasurer Report. (see attached)

Chesser asked if anyone wanted to discuss any items on the consent agenda. There was no discussion so **Barr motioned to approve the consent agenda and it was approved unanimously.**

5. Report from the Ad Hoc Board Member Search Committee (Chesser, Rixner, and Hardin)

Chesser noted that they have gotten their first group of people approved and appointed to the board and that they are now looking at new candidates. Chesser noted that some of the skills they are looking at is fundraising experience, communication (social media and marketing), and getting someone who is part of or has a relationship with DHS.

6. Discussion of 2023 NAHT strategic plan (see attachment 2021-22 goals)

Chesser noted that some example topics they could discuss are future legislation, new projects, and renewing things that haven't been done for a while. Barr noted that one thing he would like NAHT to do is to borrow material from educational programs and educate people beyond Rotary Clubs. One suggestion he gave that they could do is to get someone to create news stories to send to the media. Barr also noted that he would like to present an idea to Rotary International to have them dedicate a day every month to human trafficking awareness where they share information. Olson noted that she thinks additional education is important but they should be cautious about what they share with people so that they can make sure that they are sharing quality information from good sources.

Debner noted the upcoming opportunity to get local proclamations signed to declare January as Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month which can be used as a way to get their message out into media and other mediums. Tinsman noted that in January they need to get both local and county councils to sign these proclamations and that a copy of this proclamation should be sent out to board members.

Khanolkar asked if they would continue to have training opportunities for the board. Chesser noted that they are working on getting trauma-informed training set up for all the board members to do. Hardin noted that she would continue to reach out to the parties who would conduct the training. Olson said that she would like to train social services in the area because they work with many people including youth.

Chesser noted that the NAHT was contacted by Unity Point because they are looking to create a human trafficking policy to use throughout their system. They invited Chesser to a meeting to talk about a policy and how they and the Network can work together. Chesser noted that they want to make their system informed about trafficking. Brown-Waech noted that in October that she took a two-day training through Massachusetts General Hospital that focused on giving additional training to people who are already educated. Brown-Waech said that part of this training focused on developing policies and that she would be willing to be part of this process to help. Hardin asked what they were specifically looking to develop as part of their policy. Chesser noted that he believes they are very open as of right now and are looking to form a fully comprehensive policy.

Fineran noted that she has done training with Unity Point before and that they could potentially point them to HEAL as a guide to developing their policy. Fineran also noted that in her training that some of the staff had known that they had patients who have been trafficked but they did not know what to do. Hardin noted that she has done work with hospitals and could find out which individual protocols have worked well. Fineran noted that the Networks recommendations should leave room for flexibility so that Unity Point can create something that works for them.

Khanolkar noted that her husband is an ER Physician at Unity Point and had him speak about some of the current systems in place. Mr. Khanolkar noted that they have had some education on human trafficking for the ER staff and that the clerical staff should be getting this training too since they are the first to see patients. He also said that certain staff has 1-on-1 with patients and these staff members should be well-trained to spot red flags. He noted that one thing that could be useful would be for someone to put together a checklist to incorporate into the general checks for staff to go through so that they could carefully observe and find red flags. Fineran noted that some checklists already exists and that Unity Point could look into including it.

Hardin noted that the Network could focus on improving the grade for the state of Iowa that Shared Hope International puts out through projects or other things. Hardin also noted that she hasn't had much time to think about this but promised to do some more research into it to develop some ideas. Tinsman asked if it would be worthwhile to reach out to someone at Share Hope International to get guidance. Hardin noted that they could look at what other states have done and try to do similar things in Iowa to make improvements. Brown-Waech noted that the

work on Safe Harbor could also give a boost as well as raise awareness. Brown-Waech suggested that board members should look at Shared Hope International's grades and criteria and come up with ideas about what the NAHT could do to improve that grade. Chesser noted that he could reach out to the Shared Hope International to inquire about the grade. Tinsman suggested that they should rediscuss this topic at another meeting and everyone go through the analysis.

**7. Adjournment. Upcoming Board Meetings: Tuesday, December 13th, 2:30-4:00 pm
Monthly NAHT Board Meeting.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:59 pm.