

Meeting Minutes
Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking Board of Directors
Tuesday, November 9th, 2021

Present: Alyse Hardin, Jessica Rohrs, Teresa Davidson, Dr. Joe Moravec, Katie Kyker, Maggie Tinsman, Dr. George Belitsos, Dr. Shannon Findlay, Brenda Long, Sister Shirley Fineran, John Chesser, Tom Barr, Shirlee Reding, Chief Mike Tupper, Kim Hilby, Ruth Buckels.

Excused: Lynn Harrell, Lori Freudenberg, Bernadette Rixner.

Guests: Deb Albert (Tri-State Coalition), Terry Pounds (Hotel/Motel Video), Dr. Susan Mitchell, Jerry Breimeyer (Hotel/Motel Video Planning Team), and Gretchen Brown-Waech (Attorney General's Office)

I. Call to order (Belitsos)

After some zoom link technical glitches, Belitsos called the meeting to order. Moravec introduced Deb Albert, Terry Pounds, Susan Mitchell, and Jerry Breimeyer. All are hard-working members of the Hotel/Motel Planning Team.

II. Review and vote on the ranking of three legislative priorities for 2022. These priorities were condensed from 5 to 3 priorities as recommended by the Legislative Advocacy Committee that met on October 19th, 2021. (Tinsman)

Tinsman reported that Brown-Waech (from the Attorney General's Office) sent the language to use for this first priority requesting \$10 M in state funds. The request will include funding for human trafficking survivor services and for victims of homicide and violent crime. We should partner with sexual assault and domestic violence

groups to get this appropriation. The NAHT Executive Committee added Human Trafficking to the list of victims to be included in this \$10M state funding request. The five priorities approved at the October board meeting have now been combined by the Legislative Committee to read as follows:

- 1) REQUEST THE IOWA LEGISLATURE TO ALLOCATE \$10M IN STATE FUNDS FOR VICTIMS SERVICES AND AMEND THE VICTIM SERVICE BUDGET LINE ITEM TO INCLUDE HUMAN TRAFFICKING, HOMICIDE, AND OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES
- 2) REQUEST THE IOWA LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT LEGISLATION REQUIRING SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE CHILD SEX ABUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AS REQUESTED BY PREVENT CHILD ABUSE IOWA.
- 3) REQUEST THE IOWA LEGISLATURE ADOPT A SAFE HARBOR LAW, PROTECTING MINORS AGAINST PROSECUTION FOR ANY CRIMES COMMITTED WHILE THEY WERE TRAFFICKED AND ENACT EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY ADULT SURVIVORS WHICH OCCURRED WHILE BEING TRAFFICKED.

We need model legislation from a state which has passed Safe Harbor and Expungement in the same bill. At this point, Belitsos handed the meeting to Davison because a few board members were having trouble getting into the meeting. Davidson asked how we came up with the \$10M amount. Hardin chimed in to explain that this was the recommendation from two other victim service coalitions. Davidson asked if we needed to vote. Tinsman said yes.

Tinsman moved the 3 Legislative Priorities he approved. Hardin asked Brown-Waech if it's okay that the Executive Committee added Human Trafficking to funding priority number 1. Brown-Waech said adding human trafficking would not throw them off. She has reached out to other agencies and has found it to be fine. The Iowa Sexual Assault Coalition and the Iowa Coalition for Collective Change already have this language.

Davidson asked if anyone wanted to second the motion. Rohrs seconded the motion to approve the 3 Legislative Priorities. **Motion approved with no dissenting votes.**

Belitsos returned to the meeting and asked if there was further reporting from the Legislative Advocacy Committee. Chesser asked Tinsman further about the \$10M and the rationale behind it. Tinsman stated that two victim service coalitions including the Attorney General thought this is the best figure. Brown-Waech is waiting for additional justification and information from the Attorney General to share with the Board. Tinsman asked once again if anyone knows a state with a combined Safe Harbor and Expungement legislation and Brown-Waech responded that she had contacted the Freedom Network to find out. Davidson stated she would reach out to Shared Hope International for an answer.

III. Preparation for January 13th Proclamation Signing

- **IBAT kickoff added to the Save the Date flyer.**
- **Begin now to promote proclamations by your local City/County Board of Supervisors.**
- **In-person annual Board meeting or Zoom meeting???**
- **Delivering legislative priorities to the House and Senate.**
- **NAHT Freedom Summit was well received in 2021. Any interest in organizing or leading the Freedom Summit in 2022?**
- **Other ideas for Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month?**

Belitsos stated he amended the “Save the Date flyer” by adding the Secretary of State kickoff of the IBAT program. This kickoff will take place on January 13th following the Proclamation signed by the governor. He then went on to describe IBAT (Iowa Businesses Against Trafficking) Kickoff plans. The Secretary of State, Paul Pate, will also recognize a few businesses in the IBAT program. Moravec stated he and his committee are still working on the IBAT program and it will be a great program but he will be asking the 10 anti-trafficking coalitions to get trained and certified to provide in-person training.

Belitsos next asked Board members to begin now to schedule and promote proclamations by your local City/County Board of Supervisors. Belitsos stated we have been doing this for the last 5 years.

Belitsos stated there was justifiable concern with the recent spike in Covid. Do we want to locate our January 13th annual meeting at the State Capital building in person? We will be passing the gavel to Theresa Davidson on January 13th. Belitsos asked for a show of hands for those planning to attend in person. Dr. Findlay stated that if you are vaccinated you have good protection, but it's a personal decision. Belitsos stated that most board members voted for the in-person board meeting.

Brown-Waech stated that the human trafficking summit that has been announced for May 10th-11th, 2022 falls on the same day as the Board meeting. She asked should we have an in-person meeting on that day as well at the hotel? Dr. Moravec stated that no matter what we decide we can use Zoom. Dr. Belitsos stated to Brown-Waech that yes he was interested in hosting an in-person Board meeting at the Summit. He asked Brown-Waech to please schedule us into a room.

Tinsman will have copies of the legislative priorities for everyone at the capitol on January 13th and it is much more profitable for you to personally give it out to your representative and your senator.

Belitsos stated that the NAHT Freedom Summit was well received in 2021. Any interest in organizing or leading the Freedom Summit in 2022? Davidson said that she would like to do it but will ask her board.

Belitsos stated Freudenberg arranged and led the summit last year. There 6 board members who participated on the speaker panel and there were 157 on the live zoom link and many others who viewed it later. Freudenberg has a new job, so she will not be able to organize it this year. Belitsos asked if anyone would volunteer to set it up. He stated that there are several on the zoom call who appeared on the summit and asked if

anyone was interested. Davidson said that she would like to see the summit continue, but will need to ask her board for approval.

Hardin stated with staffing shortages she doesn't have time. As a backup, Belitsos stated that Dr. Moravec might organize another premiere for the hotel/motel video followed by a panel discussion. Others could come and watch and get additional training and information on the video. Moravec stated that they are working on trial training, and Deb stated doing it was a possibility. Moravec stated that we should roll out IBAT next year in the same format. Belitsos stated even if Davidson's Board can develop the Freedom Summit we do both! Reding stated her Central Iowa Coalition is working on a January 20th training special and Belitsos stated to share it with him so he could share it on the blog post.

IV. Approval of consent agenda (Belitsos)

- Motion to approve the October 12th, 2021 meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors.
- Motion to approve the Acting Treasurer's report for September 2021.
- Motion to approve the Outstanding Anti-Human Trafficking Service Award nomination of Kim Hilby.
- Motion to approve the Outstanding Anti-Human Trafficking Service Award nomination of Lenchen Raeside submitted by Teresa Davidson.
- Motion to approve the MOU between the NAHT and the Giving Group Community Foundation for Inspired Living.
- Motion to approve the Suggested Guidelines for Iowa Survivor Services for those 18 and above.
- Motion to accept with regret the resignation of Heather Brown.

Belitsos stated there were 7 items on the consent agenda and asked if anyone wanted to remove a motion from the agenda and the Suggested Guidelines were removed. The consent agenda **passed unanimously**.

Belitsos asked for a discussion on the Suggested Guidelines. He explained that the Executive Committee had voted to approve the Guidelines, however, it was a divided vote and that he had to break the tie vote. The intent of the best practice standards was questioned at the Executive Committee, and it was clarified that there is not any intention to make the standards a survivor service provider requirement. These are guidelines and suggestions only. So what was decided at the Executive Committee was to change the title from Best Practice to Suggested Guidelines.

Hilby revised the document and cover letter to agencies to clarify the intent. Once endorsed by the Board, the Guidelines would be sent to service providers with the cover letter from Hilby which is in the Board packet and reads as follows:

As the lead author of the Suggested Guidelines for Iowa Survivor Services, it is not my intention to have this be a "one all - end all" document. Rather, it serves as a "guideline" and not an absolute rule that must be followed as if it is a "requirement." It is intended to give programs and providers an outline to use as a comparison to other, researched guidelines. Many of the strategies in this document are taken from Best Practice Standards from other states that are survivor informed and advised. It also is a "work in progress," meaning it is to be reviewed and changed as Iowa's adult survivor service providers find necessary in helping those affected by human trafficking.

I am a licensed social worker and college professor. I constantly use the social work code of ethics and other guidelines set within the National Board of Social Workers. They serve as my compass, but they certainly don't dictate my techniques used or how I work with every single client. Further, not every social worker is licensed, but such persons still use guidelines to work and educate themselves.

I was, and am, a member of the Dubuque area, Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking. While in our developmental stages, we begged for a set of guidelines to use to educate ourselves and others about serving survivors. Also, having been in a directors' position for many years prior to working in not-for-profit organizations, I was thankful to have written documents that guided me in my work. Thus, in my mind, the creation of researched and validated practice guidelines for Iowa providers, specific to human trafficking, is crucial.

*This document is not to be used to see who gets funding or who does not. **These suggested guidelines are intended as a support for human trafficking survivors: A Living Document of Iowa's Healing Practices.** I don't believe there is any "one-size fits-all" document or one technique that every trafficked victim or survivor has success using. **Indeed, we are calling on providers to consult survivors themselves regarding these guidelines, and report back to us with any suggested changes, deletions, or additions. We want not only survivors' feedback, but providers as well within six months of the endorsement of this document by the Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery Board of Directors. We will be taking all these suggestions into consideration for the second printing of the Suggested Guidelines for Iowa Survivor Services.***

I thank you for taking time to look at this support document and for giving us feedback in preparation for our second printing. I hope you find it useful and choose to review it with your volunteers, staff, Board, and survivors. Please send your feedback directly to me at KHilby@dbq.edu.

Moravec asked if maybe we should table the matter for another time. Tinsman stated that guidelines are different and we should not call them standards at all. Barr stated he would be interested if opponents could share 2 things. What in the guidelines was a concern? What wasn't in there that they wish were in there?

Hardin and Rohr's stated that they would like to read the following statement:

As the Network Provider Committee, as well as the Survivor Panel Committee, we would like to voice our concern regarding the Best Practices Document. Every member of our committee has decided to vote for the motion to remove the Best Practices document from the NAHT strategic plan. Every human trafficking agency operates differently depending on the population they serve, the culture they serve, how they are funded, and what services they are providing. It is impossible to include these into one inclusive document. In addition, we do not feel NAHT is the right organization to be completing this project as we are not experts in every area of service.

It is important to note that each service provider on the Board of Directors, as well as service providers outside of the Board of Directors, have expressed concern regarding this document. This is in addition to 4 survivors expressing their concern. Please know that this is a factor that has gone into our vote to remove the document from our strategic plan. We would like to remind us all of the statement we made in our last Board meeting:

We, as the Provider Services Committee of the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery Board of Directors, advocate for and represent the voices of survivors. We know of four (4) survivors who have read the Suggested Guidelines for Iowa Survivor Services document. All four (4) survivors are in opposition to the document and one (1) survivor resigned from the NAHT Board of Directors over it.

We stand with them. We vote no on approving the Suggested Guidelines for Iowa Survivor Services document. This statement is signed by: Ruth Buckels, Teresa Davidson, Sister Shirley Fineran, Alyse Hardin, Brenda Long, and Jessica Rohrs.

Tupper stated everyone on the board has their heart in the right place and everyone is passionate about this. He would be concerned if we always agreed on everything. Tupper stated that he didn't have a concern with the document until he was contacted yesterday by several service providers who were opposed. He does think it's a good idea to have a best practice document but the service providers must be heard and he doesn't want to push through something with which they are not comfortable with. He supports Moravec's motion to table this issue.

Brown-Waech stated that the NAHT is not itself providing direct services. This is a problem so it should be a big red stop sign. Barr stated that the content of the document is not the issue but it does seem like survivors and providers are opposed to having any standards at all.

It was moved and seconded by Moravec and Barr to table this motion. Belitsos called for an end to further discussion. **The motion to table action on the guidelines was approved with one dissenting vote.**

Belitsos stated that he will call a special meeting of the Executive Committee to make a recommendation for the full board on December 14th where to go from here with the motion to approve the guidelines.

V. Viewing the Hotel/Motel training video

Belitsos praised Moravec and Reding and all those involved with the hotel/motel video production. The board then viewed the 30-minute video.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

The next board meeting is: Tuesday, December 14th at 2:30 pm.