

**Iowa NAHT Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 12th, 2021**

Present: Thomas Barr (proxy for Alka Khanolkar), Heather Brown, Dr. George Belitsos, Ruth Buckels, John Chesser, Teresa Davidson, Alyse Hardin, Kim Hilby, Katie Kyker, Dr. Joe Moravec, Shirlee Reding, Linda Harrell, Bernadette Rixner, Traci Stubbe (proxy for Jessica Rohrs), Maggie Tinsman, and Mike Tupper

Excused Absent: Dr. Shannon Findlay, Alka Khanolkar, Jessica Rohrs, Brenda Long, Lori Freudenberg

Absent: Shirley Fineran

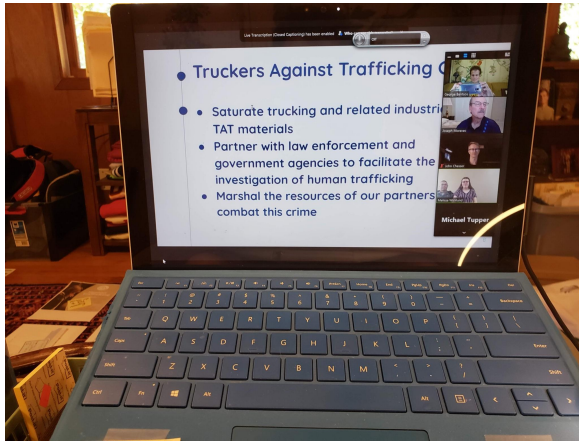
Guests: Gretchen Brown-Waech (Iowa Attorney General's Office), Addison Wicklund (Iowa State Fair 4H Project Winner on Human Trafficking), Chris and Melissa Wicklund (parents of Addison), Joe Campos (Attorney General's Office), Angela Davis (Public Policy Consultant)

I. Call to order and introduction of guests. (Belitsos)

Belitsos declared a quorum and began the meeting at 2:30 PM. Belitsos introduced Addison Wicklund, who is a high school freshman from Decorah, and has an Iowa state fair winning presentation on human trafficking which she will be presenting today. Addison's parents also introduced themselves. The parents expressed how thankful they were to have Addison present her 4H project today.

II. Presentation of Iowa State Fair 4H winning project on human trafficking. (Addison Wicklund)

Addison gave a powerpoint presentation about human trafficking, and shared research she had done and statistics. These minutes will only share one highlight Freedom Project of Addison's powerpoint. The zoom screenshots below show two of Addison's slides about the Freedom Project.



Addison visited the Truckers Against Trafficking Freedom Project and picked up safety tips and human trafficking and modern day slavery information. She also watched videos.

The Freedom Drivers Project, is a semi-trailer that is filled with artifacts and stories about human trafficking. She explained how the information in this trailer can also be useful to parents. Addison first visited it while at the Iowa State Fair when she was 13.

Belitsos thanked Addison on behalf of the NAHT. He mentioned that the NAHT has considered establishing an NAHT Youth Advisory Board, and that Addison will be invited to serve.

III. Continue to discuss legislative priorities for 2022. (Tinsman) (See page two of the agenda for a list of the proposed 2022 legislative priorities being considered.)

Tinsman asked the board to pull out the list of six possible legislative priorities for 2022. She has consulted with the Provider Collaboration and the Board itself over the last two months. The next step is to reduce this list from six to five priorities.

Davis next reviewed in detail each of the six legislative recommendations. There was considerable discussion.

Belitsos called for a vote on the list of five recommendations to be sent to the Legislative Advocacy Committee on October 19th to prioritize. **The motion was approved.** Below is a list of the approved legislative recommendations.

- The NAHT requests that the Iowa legislature adopt a Safe Harbor Law that protects minors against prosecution for any crimes committed while they were trafficked. 31 states have already passed Safe Harbor Laws.
- The NAHT requests that the Iowa legislature adopt legislation to enact the expungement of crimes committed by adult survivors, which occurred while being trafficked. This would apply to both labor and sex trafficking victims of any age. This bill would make it much easier for survivors to get jobs and to successfully integrate back into society.
- The NAHT requests that the Iowa legislature adopt legislation requiring schools to provide child sex abuse awareness and prevention for students, parents, and school employees. The NAHT is collaborating with Prevent Child Abuse Iowa and both organizations will work for passage of this legislation.
- The NAHT requests that the Iowa legislature restore the 20% cut (\$2.5 million dollars) out of the victim services budget within the Attorney General's Office. In addition, we request a new appropriation of \$500,000 for direct services to survivors of human trafficking and \$250,000 for prevention education services in school budgets primarily for training programs for teachers (mandated reporters). Currently, the state of Iowa is not providing any support to those programs. We would recommend these new state funds be administered by either DHS, DPS, or the Attorney General's Office. These programs are currently supported primarily by the faith community and private donations and are struggling to meet the needs.
- The NAHT requests that penalties for buyers (Johns) be increased. Suggestions- 2-year jail sentence for 1st offense; increased fine for offense? How much?

IV. Approval of consent agenda. (Belitsos)

The consent agenda was presented to the Board with the following motions:

- Motion to approve the September 14th, 2021 meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors.
- Motion to approve the Acting Treasurer's report for August 2021.
- Motion to approve the Outstanding Anti-Human Trafficking Service Award Nomination of the IA Department of Education and Max Christensen for becoming the first state to require training about human trafficking for all 9,000 school bus drivers who are all now trained.
- Motion to approve the Best Practice Standards for Survivor Services for those 18 and above.

- Motion to approve the Outstanding Anti-Human Trafficking Service Award nomination of Lenchen Raeside submitted by Teresa Davidson.

Belitsos began by explaining that he will be changing the September 14th board minutes on the consent agenda to be amended by Rixner. Belitsos asked Rixner to explain to the board the changes to be made. These are mostly typos and none of the changes would alter board actions.

Several board members requested to postpone the Best Practice Standards decision to next month. They explained that to give Rohrs, who will soon return from maternity leave, and the rest of the board a little more time. It was agreeable to Hilby to move the motion to approve the Best Practice Standards to the November 9th board meeting.

Moravec proposed moving the nominations for the Outstanding Anti-Human Trafficking Awards to November so the executive committee could meet and to consider changes as to how these are selected. Belitsos expressed concern about changing the selection process in mid-stream. If changes are to be made, it should apply to 2022 and not 2021. Davidson was asked if she was willing to pull her award nomination of Lenchen Raeside off the consent agenda, and she said yes. Belitsos did not want to postpone the nomination of the Department of Education, as it was written a while ago and it was shared with the board two months ago.

Belitsos called for the approval of the consent agenda minus the Lenchen Raeside award nomination, the approval of the Best Practice Standards, and the Department of Education nomination. Hearing no further discussion, Belitsos called for a vote and declared that the **consent agenda passed unanimously**.

A second motion was proposed by Belitsos to approve the nomination of the Department of Education for an Outstanding Anti-Human Trafficking Award. Belitsos asked if there was any further discussion. Moravec spoke up, and stated that he thinks we should have a better system to go through nominations, as more will be coming in and it might be hard to start accepting these nominations, especially when we only give out five awards, and his nominations have not yet been submitted. Belitsos responded that Moravec's proposed changes to the selection process will be on the November 2nd executive committee agenda, and Belitsos thanked him for his opinion. Rixner shared the concern that maybe 5 per year is too many awardees and this may take away from the value placed on the award.

Hearing no further discussion, Belitsos called for a vote. **The award nomination of the Department of Education was approved with 2 dissenting votes by Moravec and Rixner.**

V. Presentation and update from Human Trafficking Coordinator for the Iowa Attorney General's Office. (Gretchen Brown-Waech)

Gretchen promised to submit a written progress report which will be attached to these minutes when it arrives.

VI. Report from the Fundraising Committee. (Kyker, Freudenberg & Belitsos)

- Donor giving software program proposed by Dr. Joe and consideration of MOU.
- Fundraising being done for hotel/motel training video by the Research and Best Practices Committee.
- Donor documentation and recognition.

Kyker explained that the Fundraising Committee has been working on the MOU proposed by Dr. Joe for the donor giving software. Kyker explained how the committee has been going back and forth with some questions and concerns over the MOU, and that the committee will be meeting on Thursday to discuss this. Kyker noted that they will have more to report back to the board at the next meeting in November.

Kyker went on to talk about the Best Practice committee fundraising effort. This campaign is specifically for the hotel/motel training video. She explained that the Best Practices Committee sent Belitsos a sample appeal letter that they want to mail out and post on social media and blog posts. Kyker and the Fundraising Committee had reviewed this letter and stated that it was very well written. If anyone has any concerns to let her know.

Kyker talked about a new way that the Committee will be using donor documentation. This is through donor spreadsheets. Kyker explained that this will help in the future as well. This will make it easier to reach out to the past donors to keep them informed on what the Network is doing and to ask them to donate again.

VII. Report from the Evaluation/Research and Best Practices Committee. (Moravec, Reding, Freudenberg, Davidson and Hilby)

- Best Practice for Survivor Services Subcommittee report and plans to distribute the Best Practice Standards. How to get the standards certified by DHS, Attorney General's Office, or another state agency. (Hilby)

- Hotel/Motel Training Subcommittee and completion of the training video. Plans to send the training video to local Iowa coalitions and plans for training local volunteers. (Moravec)
- Progress report on the implementation of the MOU and collaboration with the Iowa Secretary of State to create a new awareness training and recognition program to be called Iowa Businesses Against Trafficking. (Reding)
- Addressing/Ending the Demand Subcommittee and Trafficking Free Zones. (Freudenberg)

Belitsos expressed gratitude to Hilby for her research and work on the Best Practice Standards. Hilby responded by explaining that she is still awaiting for more responses from providers and board members on the Best Practice Standards, and that waiting another month for this vote may be helpful in getting more responses from these providers.

Brown-Waech took a moment to explain to the board that the Attorney General's office felt that it was important for these programs to have standards, and this is what Hilby has been working on the past two years. Belitsos thanked Brown-Waech for her comments.

Hardin responded and said that she doesn't think that people aren't responding because of concerns that they have with the document, but rather that they are concerned that if they do not follow this document that they may get in trouble.

Hilby responded and said that compliance is completely voluntary, but there are standards that she would urge the providers to follow. Once approved by the board, these standards would be posted on the NAHT website and sent to the six new programs that are not licensed or operating under state standards. Hilby also explained that the NAHT does not have any authority to require programs to follow these standards, but they are recommending these best practices be followed.

Buckels responded and said that they are concerned that the wrong audience may have access to it. From a survivor point of view we don't want to create more harm.

Belitsos went on to explain that getting the standards adopted by DHS or the Attorney General's Office would only come about after the state legislators began to fund the survivor providers. He added that this is likely years away. They reiterated that Hilby has done a phenomenal job of putting this together, and they want to get to the place to say that this is a finished document.

Belitsos ended this discussion by stating that he urges all to send Hilby feedback with any changes or additions. The revised Best Practice Standards will be on the November 9th board meeting agenda.

Moravec went on to explain a few updates with the hotel/motel training video. He announced that they have the first rendition of the video, but they are working on tweaking a few different things. He thanked Davidson for the very detailed assessment and additions to the first video iteration.

Moravec also noted that within three to four weeks they will have the premiere of the video, and that Terry Pounds, the producer, will be coming to DSM. Moravec also noted that the DPS has opened their conference room to be able to show the premiere of the video. Belitsos will place the viewing of the video on the November 9th board agenda.

Freudenberg explained that they may be ready to launch about 25 inaugural IBAT businesses at the end of January.

Freudenberg proposed to Belitsos to have a table for the Secretary of State and the Safe at Home Program, as well as the NAHT's table, and that January 13th would be a great time to launch this program.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 9th, 2:30-4 pm