

Iowa NAHT Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Present: Shannon Findlay MD, Ruth Buckels, Dr. George Belitsos, Maggie Tinsman, Lori Freudenberg, Teresa Davidson, Mike Tupper, Dr. Joe Moravec, Shirlee Reding, Bernadette Rixner, Lauren Camp, Alka Khanolkar, Sister Shirley Fineran, Alyse Hardin, Roxanne Riesberg, Kim Hilby

Excused Absence: Brenda Long, Katie Kyker, Jessica Rohrs

Absent: Jonathan Causey

Tech Consultant: Mason Thomas

Guests: Patti Reeves, Gretchen Brown-Waech, Susan Mitchell (Volunteer from Des Moines), Christine Leusink (Volunteer for Siouxland Coalition), Lynn Keller (Volunteer from Newton)

I. Call to order and review 6 month meeting schedule (Belitsos)

Belitsos declared a quorum and began the meeting at 2:32 PM. He thanked Moravec for hosting today's Zoom meeting.

Belitsos welcomed Alka Khanolkar as the newest board member and asked her what motivated her to serve on the Board. Khanolkar stated that this is a platform for people to come together to end this dehumanizing act. She also shared that she will be speaking to a Rotary club in India on October 22nd to spread the word.

Dr. Joe Moravec introduced Christine Leusink, who is a part of Addressing the Demand Subcommittee and the Hotel/Motel Subcommittee.

Belitsos introduced Lynn Keller, who is giving a report from Newton Says No.

II. 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 prospective donors know that Covid-19 has resulted in a worldwide increase in the number of trafficked victims, especially children. (Kyker, Freudenberg & Belitsos)

Kyker could not attend today's meeting so Belitsos gave the report. He shared that the NAHT received a Federal Non-Profit Recovery Fund of \$3,917 to recover from losses due to the drop in donations to Covid-19. He shared this fund will be used to pay technology consultants and the NAHT website administrator.

Belitsos asked board members to begin making requests to their local churches, temples, or community foundations. He said that most donors have chosen to donate to Covid-19 relief funds or stopped donating altogether.

Belitsos said that making it known to the community foundations that Covid-19 has had a major impact on the increase in human trafficking, especially child trafficking. This is caused by the increase of youth on the internet unsupervised. The fundraising committee wrote up a proposal with talking points and statistics that can be used when approaching local community groups.

Dr. Joe Moravec added that churches pose a great opportunity to provide training and ask for support from.

Bernadette Rixner said that it might be worthwhile to work on getting the NAHT out there more to get more support.

Teresa Davidson said that she mentioned the works of NAHT in her federal report which will give more awareness.

Belitsos mentioned that Davidson is the only presidential-appointee from the Midwest on the National Public-Private Partnership Advisory Council to end trafficking.

III. Presentation and progress report from Gretchen Brown-Waech, Human Trafficking Coordinator, Iowa Attorney Generals' Office

Gretchen Brown-Waech started off her report saying that her work has shifted due to Covid. She mentioned that they won't be returning to the attorney generals' office until sometime next year. She has had to adapt her training and presentations from in-person. She said a big focus is how they are going to do the 2021 human trafficking summit. The Iowa Attorney Generals' Office wants to do it in-person, but they don't know if it will be an option. Brown-Waech said that summit will focus on labor trafficking and also include sex trafficking presentors.

Brown-Waech talked about Iowa Code Chapter 915 and the best practice standards it sets. Brown-Waech said that last year they received funding to create a new certification program and curriculum for these programs. She is now working on best practice standards for human trafficking programs.

Hilby mentioned that the NAHT Best Practice Committee is also working on best practice standards for human trafficking programs. Hilby asked if her coalition could come up with something to suggest to them? She asked about how the NAHT should collaborate with Brown-Waech.

Brown-Waech said that this is not necessary and there is still a month left. She said that she will make sure the Network is consulted moving forward and before the standards are posted.

Sister Shirley Fineran recommended that at least one survivor and one person in the Best Practices Subcommittee work directly with Brown-Waech. Brown-Waech responded that several sexual assault providers were involved with the standards and curriculum she is writing.

Rixner asked if Brown-Waech was working on an update on the map of human trafficking cases successfully tried in Iowa, and she said that it is on her to-do list this winter. Belitsos said that the map is on the NAHT website and the best evidence that trafficking takes place in Iowa.

Brown-Waech said that she will let the Network know when new requests for grant proposals come out.

Belitsos thanked her and said she is always welcome at meetings.

IV. Approval of consent agenda (Belitsos)

- Motion to authorize the Board chair to sign a MOU with the U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking to collaborate on the hotel/motel employee training project
- Motion to approve the August 11th meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors
- Motion to approve the September 15th meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors
- Motion to authorize the Board Chair to sign an agreement with Coral Ridge Mall to extend the awareness display designed by the Johnson County Human Trafficking Coalition and paid for by a 100+ Women grant to NAHT. This is a 3 month extension at \$350/mo = \$1050.
- Motion to approve the nomination of West Liberty Rotary Club for an Outstanding Anti-Trafficking Service Award
- Motion to approve the Acting Treasurer's report for September 2020.

- Motion to authorize Rather Than Running to upgrade the website version of Wordpress that will strengthen security, better display in mobile devices, add interactive features; including media gallery and wide content layout. Cost is not to exceed \$800.

Belitsos asked if there were any questions about any motions on the consent agenda?

Tinsman had a question if the total cost from RatherThanRunning for the website upgrade would be \$800, Belitsos responded that the cost would be less and the \$800 was just a high estimate. He also shared that the new Covid-19 Recovery Grant would cover the cost.

Riesberg had a question about the MOU and asked if there are two separate initiatives within it. Belitsos said that currently it is just one (hotel/motel training) and then at some point down the road, it might expand to make Iowa a Trafficking Free Zone a part of a second and separate MOU. This Hotel/Motel MOU is to build a working relationship with the US Institute and if they follow through.

Moravec said that the NAHT Hotel/Motel Employee Training Committee is already working very closely with the US Institute to create a certifiable training for the hotel/motel project.

Riesberg asked if this is something DPS wants us to do for them, and Dr. Joe Moravec said that this is our training initiative and that the committee is working collaboratively with the DPS Office to Combat Human Trafficking.

Reding shared that this is a non-binding voluntary agreement outlining what the US Institute could do for the Network.

Executive Committee motioned to approve the consent agenda which does not require a second

Belitsos reported that the consent agenda passed unanimously

- V. Update presentation by regional coalitions.** (those who did not report last month)
- Tri-State Human Trafficking Coalition (Hilby)

Hilby shared that the Tri-State Human Trafficking Coalition had a Zoom meeting for the first time. She said that they are very involved in hotel/motel training projects. They are working with the NAHT to create best practice standards. Hilby shared that they have a few new coalition members.

- Newton Says No (Lynn Keller)

Keller shared that their coalition hasn't been very active in 2020 due to Covid-19. She said that from the time they organized in 2014, they have accomplished a lot of different awareness projects. Keller listed many of the projects they have done including education programs within the school district, community wide presentations, and getting a Newton massage ordinance passed. She shared that after the ordinance that passed Newton had an illicit massage business shut down which she said was a very exciting thing. They have also placed rescue stickers throughout Jasper County.

Reding asked if they still put up anti-trafficking signs by the speedway for races. Keller said that they still do but there haven't been many races this year.

- Braking Traffik (Hardin)

Hardin shared that since October of 2019 they have served 196 survivors. She broke down the demographics and 12 were labor trafficking victims, 79 of them were under the age of 18, and the number

of survivors from Muscatine County have doubled since the last fiscal year. Harding said that in this last year they have served 41 survivors in Muscatine County.

Hardin shared that they have been busy training school age children with the Set Me Free project and have decided to partner with them. They purchased their curriculum which is more tailored for students, which makes it easier for parents and educators. They use this curriculum with students as young as 3rd grade up to 12th grade. She said the curriculum works well to teach the kids appropriately based on their age and maturity. An example of this is they start teaching about sex trafficking and social media safety once they reach seventh grade.

Hardin told the board about some exciting news that they received a grant to expand Braking Traffik with an Illinois program. She wrote the grant which took a lot of her time. She said that after they got the grant they hired staff and now have three advocates working with survivors.

- Johnson County Human Trafficking Coalition (Findlay)

Shannon Findlay shared with the board that their coalition has an awareness campaign going on at the Coral Ridge Mall. Belitsos mentioned that a 3-month lease extension was approved in the consent agenda. Findlay also told the board that they are looking at how to utilize the rest of the funds they received from the 100+ Women group. They might have a conference or webinar. They are also working on how to use the funds that were dedicated to funding speakers for the conference that got cancelled in September due to Covid-19.

- Last Watch Coalition (Tupper)

Chief Mike Tupper told the board that Covid has slowed their coalition down as well and they are planning to have a meeting next week to figure out how to bring everyone back together. In the past, Last Watch Coalition has focused on awareness and they have had well attended community anti-trafficking events.

VI. Report from Legislative Advocacy Committee and proposed priorities for 2021. Reasons why the proposed Omnibus Bill will not take place in 2021. (Tinsman)

Maggie Tinsman told the board that the Legislative Advocacy Committee met earlier today to discuss 2021 legislative priorities and issues. The committee decided to support two priorities: Safe Harbor and expansion of massage businesses ordinance statewide emphasizing local control.

Tinsman said that Safe Harbor bill will eliminate charging minors or commercially sex exploited individuals with prostitution or minor labor trafficking victims with crimes committed during the course of their exploitation. She said the immunity may expand to the age 25 and they might include expunging records for survivors that were charged in the past.

Tinsman said that the massage business law would include setting a statewide standard for local law enforcement to be able to access and investigate massage businesses which would expand local law enforcement authority rather than limiting.

Maggie Tinsman also told the board about two legislative issues that they supported but not as priorities. These are a pilot investigation program and a hotel/motel implementation funding appropriation. She shared that the pilot investigator program is not a law and just addresses two concerns; private investigative assistance to identify traffickers and buyers bringing different groups together so more traffickers can be prosecuted successfully. The second part of the private investigator proposal was to seek transitional living funding. The transitional living funding is to work with DHS and the Department of Public Safety to assist in providing longer stays in transitional housing for survivors in residential facilities. The legislative committee did not feel like the transitional living funding belonged in the same proposal as the private detectives.

The second issue which was not selected as a priority was the funding of the hotel/motel employee training legislation. The funding for the Office to Combat Human Trafficking was cut from \$300,000 to \$150,000. The training program being designed by the Network Against Human Trafficking will be offered for free to hotels. The legislative committee did not select this as one of its priorities but will support an increased appropriation for the DPS Office to Combat Human Trafficking.

Belitsos asked Rixner to explain how her expungement legislation proposal would help survivors. Rixner gave an example to explain this and said that a victim was forced to do drug runs and then was arrested and found guilty. This led them to have a felony record. The survivor wanted to become a nurse but can't with a felony record. Expungement would mean that the record is gone because the crime was committed in duress.

Lauren Camp asked why the Legislative Committee are putting an age cap on the Safe Harbor bill, to which Tinsman responded and said because the committee was looking at a Minnesota Safe Harbor law which had a 25 year age limit.

Sister Fineran said that she thinks that there should not be an age limit on the expungement as the first survivor at Lila Mae's house was 61.

Theresa Davidson suggested that amending Iowa code 725.1 might be an easier way to get this to pass. A way to change this would be to protect minors from criminalization of prostitution charges. Davidson said that this would be faster and then in 2022 the Network could work on getting expungement expanded to all survivors regardless of age. Tinsman, Sister Fineran, and Rixner agreed with this.

Riesberg said that she thinks the only reason to split would be to get the expungement to go past the age of 25. She offered to send the committee the Iowa code reference.

Davidson brought up that the Network needs to decide what type of crimes would be expunged since legislators might not find that violent crimes should be expunged.

Belitsos said that it appears consensus that the expungement should not be under this Safe Harbor law. It appears that the Board is asking the Legislative Committee to make expungement a third priority.

He called for a vote on passing these two priorities as presented by Tinsman's committee.

Following a voice vote, Belitsos reported that the vote passed unanimously

VII. Update from Survivor Service Provider Collaboration (Hardin, Buckels, Rohrs & Davidson)

This report is moved to the next Board meeting

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

- Hotel/Motel Training Subcommittee
- Addressing/Ending the Demand Subcommittee
- Best Practice for Survivor Services Subcommittee
- Collaboration with the US Institution on Human Trafficking

Moravec started off by showing the board a flowchart displaying the overall committee structure with the three subcommittees as well as the members within each one.

He said that the Hotel/Motel Committee is composed of many central Iowa people and four regional coalitions working diligently on putting a best practice module together. Moravec stated that each coalition is working on their own with the materials provided and their next meeting is in November.

Moravec mentioned that there are several new members working on Addressing/Ending the Demand Subcommittee.

He said that Kim Hilby will be overseeing the work being done by the Best Practice for Survivor Services Subcommittee. Gretchen Brown-Waech will also be helping with this subcommittee.

Moravec said that they had a good meeting with Micah the CEO and the US Institute. This resulted in the MOU which was approved by the Board earlier.

Reding shared that the Hotel/Motel Committee is working hard and in less than a month they will have a proposed style product.

IX. Adjournment

Belitsos thanked everyone for their active participation at today’s Zoom meeting. He reminded the board that at the bottom of the agenda is the next 6-month meeting schedule. He adjourned the meeting at 4:03pm.

NAHT Board of Directors and Executive Committee

Next 6 Months of Meeting Dates

Date	Agenda
Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 2:30-4pm	IaNAHT Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom link
Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 2:30-4pm	IaNAHT Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom link
Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 2:30-4pm	Quarterly Executive Committee via statewide conference call
Thursday, January 14, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 11:00am Governor Proclamation signing and Outstanding Anti-Trafficking Service Awards to take place in the Rotunda of the Iowa State Capitol Building ● Noon NAHT Board of Directors meeting at the Iowa State Capitol Building
Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 2:30-4pm	IaNAHT Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom link

Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 2:30-4pm	IaNAHT Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom link
Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 2:30-4pm	IaNAHT Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom link