

Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2019

Attendee: Dr. George Belitsos, Ali Brokaw (proxy), Lauren Camp, Jonathan Causey, Sister Shirley Fineran, Shannon Findlay, Linda Greenlee, Brenda Long, Dr. Joseph Moravec, Bernadette Rixner, Shirlee Reding, Jessica Rohrs, Maggie Tinsman,

Excused: Dr. Taylor Houston, Dr. Alissa Stoehr, Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald, Sgt. Elizabeth Quinn, Mike Tupper, Jennifer Kerger, and Shana Kargbo (Please Note: Alyse Harding, Katie Kyker, Roxanne Riesberg are all three on maternity leave)

Absent: Suzy Wright

Belitsos called the meeting to order and introduced the presenters: Kelly Meek from the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA) and Laura Hessburg from the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV).

Presentations by the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA) and the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) (Kelly Meek & Laura Hessburg)

- **What we do**
- **Overlap with human trafficking**
- **2020 legislative priorities**
- **How we can work collaboratively with the Iowa NAHT**

What we do

Meek opened by giving the Board some background information on the formation of ICASA and ICADV. It seems that several years ago sexual assault and domestic violence existed under one umbrella. Then Iowa decided to restructure victim services to insure that domestic violence and sexual assault services were given equal but separate funding. ICASA now has separate staffs and contracts for sexual assault services. This also opens the door for additional programming that intersect with other kinds of crime such as human trafficking and homicide.

Services

Meek went on to explain what ICASA and ICADV provided for victims. Although the two coalitions have somewhat similar missions (end sexual violence and improve support to victims), ICASA provides services to sexual assault survivors so they have the resources, tools and skills needed and works as a bridge with policy makers. Whereas, ICADV is a non-profit organization working with crime victim service provider agencies focusing on helping victims get out of their victim situation and freeing them from a life of fear and violence.

Legislation

Hessburg spoke on ICADV's legislative priorities for 2020. She had emailed Belitsos their priorities one hour prior to today's meeting. Belitsos will send the ICADV and ICASA legislative priorities out to the Board along with their budgets that were requested by Tinsman. Belitsos had sent the NAHT 2020 legislative priorities to the two coalitions and had requested

their feedback. Meek and Hessburg oppose the request for one million in new funding for trafficking prevention programs and survivor services. When Belitsos asked what NAHT's 2020 Legislative Priorities they would most likely support, they were in agreement with the restoration of \$1.7 M cut to state funding to the Crime Victim Assistant Services Division in the Iowa Attorney General's office.

Collaboration

As to how NAHT, ICASA, and ICADV could collaborate, Hessburg felt that she didn't have a good sense of what NAHT is doing and needed more information. Belitsos stated that the NAHT is solely focused on human trafficking awareness, prevention, and training, as well as advocacy for survivor services. Belitsos invited both Hessburg and Meek to NAHT's Day on the Hill on January 16th at 11:00 a.m. with the Governor's signing of a proclamation declaring January as Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Belitsos also invited them to attend the NAHT Board meeting following the signing.

Approval of consent agenda – the following consent agenda was approved by the board.

- Motion to approve the November 12th meeting minutes of the NAHT Board of Directors
- Motion to accept the Treasurer's report for November 2019
- Motion to approve following nominees for an Outstanding Anti-Human Trafficking Service Award: Mark Vest for founding and heading Break the Cycle 200; Senator Charles Grassley for HT legislative achievements; Jim Townsend for passage of Urbandale's massage business ordinance; and Brenda Long for founding Garden Gate Ranch
- Motion to re-elect to a 2 year term the following Board members: Maggie Tinsman, Alyse Hardin, Katie Kyker, Shirlee Reding, Bernadette Rixner, George Belitsos, Mike Tupper
- Motion to adopt the following vision statement for the NAHT: "An Iowa without human trafficking and modern day slavery"
- Motion to accept with regret the resignation of board member and treasurer Jennie Kerger, effective January 31st, 2020 3:00

Report from the Legislative Advocacy Committee

Tinsman reported that she had met with Representative Gary Moore along with Nicole Durbin, CEO of Family Resources. Discussion in that meeting included:

- Hotel/Motel Bill, which Rep. Mohr would draft and sponsor.
- Adoption of a "Safe Harbor" law to decriminalizing child sex trafficking survivors
- Restoration of 1.7 Million Dollar Cuts in the state funding for Victim Assistance grants in the Crime Victim Assistance Division in the Attorney General's Office
- Create a new funding appropriation of \$1M designated for Human Trafficking Prevention, Education and Treatment Services. This new source of funding for human trafficking should not result in taking away funding from existing state appropriations.

Tinsman mentioned that Rep. Mohr is the new chair of the House Appropriation Committee and the perfect person to talk with about funding. She also mentioned that she had talked with Senator Roby Smith who agreed to sponsor the Hotel/Motel Bill in the Senate.

Also, Tinsman reported that Angela Davis is in the process of creating a coalition of agencies that will work together to pass NAHT legislative priorities. This anti-trafficking coalition has drafted articles to file with the Secretary of State. Once approved, this new legislative coalition would be setting up a bank account and plans to continue to meet with donors. The \$5,000 that the NAHT Legislative Advocacy Committee has raised would be transferred to this new coalition for use to pay legislative consulting fees paid to Angela Davis. Davis is putting together an operation outline of steps to be taken prior to the first of the year.

The next meeting of the Legislative Advocacy Committee will be at the Capitol on January 16, 2020 at 10:15 am prior to the Proclamation signing.

Report from the Johnson County Human Trafficking Coalition (Shannon Findlay)

Finley stated that the Johnson County Coalition had been discussing the best way to use the \$8,000 funds from 100+ Women and is developing a human trafficking awareness media message to be used at movie theaters and in Coral Ridge Mall. She has been working with DVI to make speaking and travel arrangements with the two speakers for the April 2020 conference. She mentioned that members of the coalition had attempted to make arrangements for Hotel/Motel employee training but were having difficulty in reaching the decision makers into the hotel industry in Iowa City and Coralville. Also, she mentioned the University Heights' proposed ordinance which is the first city in Iowa to consider requiring hotel/motel training for all employees. In answer to a question from Belitsos, she mentioned that the coalition has not yet begun to distribute rescue stickers.

Plans for kickoff of Demand an End Campaign, Best Practice standards for Survivor Services, future of VOCA funding for trafficking projects (Gretchen Brown-Waech)

The Iowa Attorney General's Office – Crime Victim Assistance Division (CVAD) made the decision to move away from the previously-planned “Demand an End” campaign. They had a number of conversations internally and externally and realized that the demand focus was not necessarily in line with their priorities (services for victims/survivors) and made the decision to broaden their focus with a victim service PSA campaign. The goal of the PSA survivor service information campaign is to give program posters and other educational material across the state. Three things provided by the PSA campaign will be social media posts (at least 4), press release templates for local use, and a fact sheet about human trafficking.

Reding and Belitsos expressed disappointment with the CVAD decision to abandon the “Demand an End” campaign. The NAHT had planned to support and collaborate with the Attorney General's Office on this campaign. This goal had been added to the NAHT strategic plan and now will need to be changed.

Brown-Waech reported that there is no change currently on the horizon for VOCA funding from the federal level.

Brown-Waech had to leave the meeting early and will send the NAHT Board a written report within the next few days.

Preparation for January 16, 2020 Proclamation Signing and January as Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month

Belitsos stated that he had just received confirmation of Senate Room 116 for the NAHT Board meeting on January 16th following the proclamation signing. All the necessary arrangements have been made with the governor's staff. He will be sending out a blog post to encourage advocates to contact their city/county officials for developing local human trafficking proclamations in January. A sample copy of a city proclamation will be on the blog post.

Report from Fundraising Committee. Percentage of Board who have donated—Goal of 100% Board Participation by December 31. Remittance envelopes to be mailed to Board (Kyker)

Committee Chair, Katie Kyker, is going to be gone until April on maternity leave. Belitsos will be sending out the newly printed remittance envelopes to all Board members to be given to potential donors to NAHT. Those Board members who have yet to donate in 2019 were also asked to send a check in one of the remittance envelopes.

Progress report from hotel/motel employee projects. Proposed training DVD to be developed for hotels not in face-to-face service areas (Reding, Rixner, Wright, and Kargbo)

Dr. Moravec and Reding are working on putting together a DVD to be used by hotels to train their employees on human trafficking awareness. The Hospital Association has agreed to film a training session that the Central Iowa Hotel/Motel Project can share with hotels when they are not in our face-to-face service area. This will also make it easier for hotels that have a turnover of staff to get all of their employees trained. The DVD will be based on the training that the Central Iowa hotel/motel training project has been doing and will also include a manual.

Startup of Service Provider Collaboration (Hardin and Rohrs)

Rohrs reported that they are putting together a startup meeting in March and developing a list of director's information from across the state that serves the needs of human trafficking victims. The idea behind the meeting is to offer every organization the opportunity to come together to network. The goal is to assist survivor service provider groups training on best practices and in building a networking group to lean on when doing the hard work they do.

Update on labor trafficking in Sioux City meatpacking businesses (Camp)

Camp reported that she would be doing another outreach event this weekend to talk with labor-trafficked workers. She stated that the local community and support organizations have been really helpful and have collaborated extensively. She was able to find a translator to facilitate communication with workers. By sharing resources, she is able to provide winter coats to workers and by doing this she hopes this will show these workers where to get help. An Asian service organization called Monsoon was responsible for fundraising and organizing the distribution of coats

Report on the NAHT Rescue Sticker Project. 400 stickers sent to the DOT for rest area restrooms.

Dr. Houston unable to attend today's meeting.

Belitsos reported that he was considering ordering another 2,500 rescue stickers as all of them have been given out. In the course of one year, we have given out 10,000 rescue stickers. The tri-state human trafficking coalition has requested 500 stickers, but Belitsos could only send them 250 stickers.

Adjournment

Next Board of Directors Meeting is Thursday, January 16, 2020 at the State Capitol Building. Proclamation Signing at 10:30 AM. Board Meeting 12:00–1:30 PM.