

NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2018

10 am – 1 pm

1201 Front Street, Raleigh, NC

Commission Members Present:

Libby Coles, JusticeMatters, Inc.
Jennifer Haigwood, NC Department of Labor
Jasmine McGhee, NC Department of Justice (via telephone)
Sarah Tellis, True Justice International
Designee Lindsey Lane, ADA Cumberland County, on behalf of Mr. West
Dianne Layden, Public at Large
Pamela Cashwell, NC Department of Public Safety
Suzanne Mauney Smith, Gaston County Police (not on sign-in sheet)
Maria Lopez Degaldo, Legal Aid of NC, on behalf of Caitlin Ryland

Commission Members Not Present:

William "Billy" West, Cumberland County District Attorney
Caitlin Ryland, Legal Aid of North Carolina
Monika Johnston Hostler, NC Coalition against Sexual Assault
William M. Nichols, Ret. Major NC Highway Patrol

Commission Staff Present:

Susan Romano

DOJ Staff Present:

Aschante Pretty
Narcisa Woods
Jennifer Savage
Karly Mitchell, Intern
Molly Crabb, Intern
Vanessa Canuto, Intern
Kalley Morgan, Intern

Members of the Public Present:

Tim Hinnant, GCC
David Delaney, Attorney
Rick Hoffman, NC SBI
Kory Williford, FBI

Christy Agner, NC DOA
Intern, NC DOA
Emily Davis, Humans for Justice
Heidi Wiseman, NC State Highway Patrol Highway
Jonathon Davis, NC State Highway Patrol Highway
Danielle Smith, student from Appalachian State/Intern with Project FIGHT
Elizabeth Hunter, The Salvation Army's Project FIGHT
Patricia Witt, NCCAHT/PATH NC/Project No Rest
Linda Atack, PATH NC
Mary Williams-Stover, NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement
Scott Phillips, USCRI
Scott Parker, NC DMV
Michael Longmire, NC BMBWT
Mark Grimaldi, DMH/DD/SAS
Melinda Sampson, ENC Stop Human Trafficking
Courtney Dunkerton, Alamance for Freedom
Bria Miller, Alamance for Freedom
Maria Lopez Delgado, Legal Aid of NC, BIP
Anne Friesen, Friend to Friend
Kaitlyn Redocindo, Legal Aid of NC, BIP
Pam Strickland, ENC Stop Human Trafficking
Carrie Frost, Designed for Joy
Steve Shirley, SAS
Justin Choy, SAS
Mary Beth Carroll, SAS
Nancy Hagen, UNC Project No Rest
Margie Rose
Traci Klein, True Justice International
Victoria Plybon, World Relief
Linda Turner, Little Gerald Services
Diana Walker, Little Gerald Services
Ceara Smith, UNC Project No Rest
Stephanie Nesbitt, NC Admin. Office of the Courts
Tara Minter, NC Admin. Office of the Courts
Maura Nsoncere, NCSU Dept of Social Work
Jasmine Foye, GCC intern
Gabriel Lime, Justice Matters Reuben
Moses, Justice Matters, Inc.
Heather, SAS
Casey Lunceford, The Salvation Army's Project FIGHT
Bria Love, Teach2Reach
Saira Estrada, NCADV
Charlene Reiss, DCRC
Neil Sollod, Capital Broadcasting

Cathy Kimbal, The China Press
Liz Kline, Fox50
Alycia Blackwell-Pittman, NC DHHS
Kerry Swearingen, SAS

Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order and read the following State Government Ethics Act reminder:

- In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act: it is the duty of every North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission member to avoid conflicts of interest. If any HTC member has any known conflict of interest in respect to any matter coming in front of the HTC they must identify the conflict and refrain from any participation in the particular matter involved.

Welcome and Introductions:

The Chair asked members of the Commission and members of the public to introduce themselves.

Approval of the Minutes: 5/17/18 meeting:

- A motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2018 meeting was made and seconded and passed.

Updates from Alamance County - Courtney Dunkerton, Bria Miller (Alamance for Freedom):

Executive Director and Co-Founder, Courtney Dunkerton, and Victim Advocate and Director of Youth Services, Bria Miller, shared an update from Alamance for Freedom:

- The organization will be merged with Crossroads Child Advocacy Center, effective July 1, 2018.
- Staff shared their effort to increase victim identification in the county by learning more about the population of women engaged in street prostitution and substance use.
- Project HOPE: A prostitution diversion program in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office is in current development, with two clients already enrolled. NC GS 14-204, subsection B has a built-in conditional discharge for anyone who does not have a prior conviction under that statute or has not been placed on probation for a violation in this section.
- Alamance for Freedom, DJJ and the Sheriff's office had interest in increasing identification of youth that are being trafficking. They brought in the DA's office and had discussions on the number of runaway youth reports made. This partnership has provided them with the opportunity to educate intake workers and court counselors on how exploitation happens with the runaway population. The discussions have increased community response and referrals. It has

expanded from the original agencies to also educating at child welfare, multidisciplinary teams and actual youth involvement groups.

Ms. Dunkerton and Ms. Miller engaged in discussion and Q&A with Commission members and members of the public.

Community Leaders Initiating Change Through Collaboration Project (CLICC) - Mary Williams Stover, NC Council for Women & Youth Involvement: *(see power point presentation to accompany this summary)*

Mary Williams Stover, Executive Director of the NC Council for Women & Youth Involvement of the NC Department of Administration shared an update on Project CLICC:

- The Council has various programs and is a state advocacy agency located within the department of administration. It is the state's leading voice on key issues impacting women and youth.
- Project COPE and Project CLICC are the Council's two human trafficking programs and are focused on advocacy, education, and outreach initiatives. • Project CLICC stands for Community Leaders Initiating Change through Collaboration. The project kicked off in 2017-2018 through Governor's Crime Commission funding and is focused on strengthening work done through current partners to target underserved and vulnerable populations. Objective is to provide training and technical assistance to grantees to enhance their ability to serve victims of human trafficking. They are learning through CLICC that victims are presenting at these agencies and they are helping to build access to housing and other resources. A Community Advocates Advisory Committee has formed to provide feedback from the field on needs of victims and programs.

"What's at Stake" Pilot Prevention Program – Liz Kline, Niel Sollod with Capital Broadcast Company and Nancy Hagen with UNC-CH's Project NO REST: *(see power point presentation to accompany this summary)*

Liz Kline and Niel Sollod of Capitol Broadcasting Company and Nancy Hagan of Project NO REST presented the results of the "What's at Stake" initiative:

- "What's at Stake" is an initiative with NC DHHS to prevent commercial sexual exploitation through a pilot program in Fayetteville NC. The goal is preventing sexual assault through raising awareness and targeting potential perpetrators. This is a demand reduction project and served ads to individuals on-line that were exhibiting certain risky behaviors in specific geographic areas. Content experts from the field assisted in deciding pilot locations, website content and language within ads. In seeking resources to give to potential perpetrators, it was determined that there were not any good resources for distribution and this is a real need for the project.

- Results from the 2 months showed that many targets took the extra step to go to the website and strip clubs showed the highest click through rate to visit the website, especially on the military ad. Actual ads were shown and the presenter highlighted how Facebook and geo-fencing was used to display the ads. Post reactions were also high, which indicates “likes” made to the ads. Over 1.5 million digital ads were issued to individuals and the website had 1700 unique viewers.
- Next steps: To recruit a research partner to assist with analytics of future replications and building out additional content on the website.

Ms. Kline, Mr. Sollod, and Dr. Hagan engaged in discussion and Q&A with Commission members and members of the public.

NC DOJ Report: Jasmine McGhee, Department of Justice:

Chair Coles thanked NC DOJ, Commissioner McGhee, and the Attorney General for housing and staffing the Commission.

Commissioner McGhee and DOJ staff provided an update from NC DOJ:

Commissioner McGhee communicated that thousands of human trafficking awareness signs have been distributed, but needs more time for strategizing how to address the adult establishment distribution. Ms. Woods communicated that feedback from some ABC-licensed businesses have been statements of concern regarding the verbiage on the signs and questioning whether the sign is over-reaching. Other questions have been related to getting additional signs, the legal responsibility to post these signs and/or the location the sign must be posted.

Chair Coles reported that in the short session the General Assembly passed legislation removing the requirement that ABC-permitted establishments post the sign in a location visible to the public. They are now only required to post the sign in a location visible to employees. This issue will be tabled until the move to NC AOC is made and she will consider forming an Ad Hoc committee to continue this work and discussion.

Commissioner McGhee continued her update by reporting about the wind-down for the two Governor’s Crime Commission grants, and thanked the HTC staff for their work. NC DOJ and NC AOC will be working together for a smooth transition of materials and records. Although the change is effective July 1st, transition of many items such as the signs appropriation will be towards the end of July. Jasmine thanked all internal NC DOJ staff for their years of service and voiced the Attorney General’s continued support of anti-human trafficking efforts and the HTC.

NC HTC Chair Report: Libby Coles

- The HTC remains committed to the HTC’s VOCA Grant objectives and will see those to completion at the NC AOC.
- The General Assembly moved the HTC to NC AOC, effective July 1st and appropriated 1.5 million to the HTC, 10% can be used towards administrative

efforts to staff the commission and the rest for victim services. The chair states she would like to form an Ad Hoc Committee to handle the appropriation with HTC Commissioners and AOC representation. The motion is made, seconded and passed with no objections or abstained members.

- The Charlotte Symposium is postponed due to a number of factors, Commission staff will be working to get it back on the calendar once the Commission transitions to AOC.
- Chair Coles thanked Secretary Hooks and Commissioner Cashwell for meeting to discuss opportunities for partnership and initiatives between NC DPS and the Commission, including potential initiatives in January for Human Trafficking Awareness Month. The Secretary communicated his support of the HTC's efforts.

Working Group & Committee Reports and Action Items:

Ad Hoc Committee on Standards: no report this month

Committee on Policy and Legislation: Committee Chair Haigwood reported on the passage of SB 162, the Restorative Justice bill, and HB 986, which requires DPI to work with DHHS to develop a model mental health training program that enables school personnel to satisfy all school training requirements through electronic delivery of instruction on topics from youth mental health to sex trafficking. HB 986 also requires development of minimum requirements for risk referral protocols in these same topic areas.

Chair Coles noted that the committee is beginning preparations for the upcoming long session and that the HTC is accepting recommendations for legislative changes in the long session.

Committee on Public Health: Committee Chair Tellis reports she has reached out to NC DHHS regarding forming the advisory committee recommended in NC DHHS's "Feasibility Study for Provision of Anti-Human Trafficking Training, Session Law 2017151, Section 5". In this report DHHS recommended a number of next steps, including that DHHS and HTC "form an Advisory Group to evaluate and select a training curriculum, formulate train-the-trainer opportunities, and implement the program statewide within three years".

Committee on Public Safety: Chair Coles provided a brief update for Committee Chair Nichols: invitations have gone out and include Commission members and key leaders and stakeholders.

NC DMV Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives – Scott J. Parker, NC DMV:

Deputy Commissioner Scott J. Parker gave brief remarks, including:

- The Commissioner has formed a working group that consists of Sheriffs, Head of the Police Association, and Head of the Sheriff's Association. More training for

their officers and analysts is needed through SBI and other resources. The working group will be inviting the HTC to come present about HTC work.

- The NC DMV is planning to train CDL licensed drivers in NC.

Human Trafficking: Child Welfare Policy and Statutory Updates – Alycia Blackwell-Pittman, NC DHHS:

Alycia Blackwell-Pittman, Senior Policy Analyst with NC Department of Health and Human Services, provided an update from NC DHHS:

1. Child Welfare Policy Updates

- a.) They have made revisions to the policy regarding how they screen intake calls to include more specific questions that help better assess. Example – what is the parent or care taker’s capacity to provide care, as well as the what is the child’s runaway status and how are the child’s needs are being met. Requirement for intake worker to provide certain resources for the caller, such as the National Human Trafficking Resource Center number. These policies were released on June 15th and are effective August 1st in NC.
 - b.) Screening tools for the staffing of the reports now include a series of questions related to whether or not the child could be considered a dependent child being trafficked. Include – is the child being exchanged for the purposed of sex or labor and understanding if the child is unaccompanied and the status of the parents.
 - c.) Response time protocol allows the reports to be responded to within 0-24 hours. The hope is to loop in law enforcement and the DA’s office to this process.
 - d.) Human trafficking is now considered universal to all intake reports, so all callers will be asked as a standard question. Questions will be more descriptive and behavioral during the intake process, such as tattoo markings, etc.
2. Legislative Updates: SB 162 included language regarding the ability to close the “loop hole” if the caretaker is not the trafficker. All children can now be assessed and provided services. Also found in HB 776, although the language is different and active dates differ. Next steps have started in the organization and this is considered a positive change.
 3. Status of the Feasibility Study Recommendations: In collaboration with the HTC, NC DHHS needs to form an advisory group in regards to curriculum related to human trafficking training for emergency responders and health care providers. Betty Kelly is the interim point of contact.

Discussion:

Question: Have DSS Directors been informed of these changes? Policy updates were shared on June 15th and the statutory changes are new, so have not been fully shared with DSS Directors.

Question of the universal intake wording regarding human trafficking? Is the child being exchanged for the purposes of sex or labor is the question, but paraphrasing and elaboration is allowed from the intake worker to help the caller understand the question. Question: Prior to October start date of the legislative changes, would intake workers be able to open cases now? Answer summarized again that the legislative change deals with guardianship and until October, it would depend on the individual DSS offices.

What will be the status of other children that are found at the location that may or may not be part of the same family? Safety of all youth would be considered and assessed in the investigation if there is suspicion of trafficking. If children are not related but found to be at risk of harm, then referrals would be considered for the statutory criteria as well.

Break:

The meeting was called back to order by Ms. Coles, who turned to floor over to Steve Shirley with SAS Institute.

Supporting Government in the Fight Against Human Trafficking – SAS NC Government Account Team: *(see power point presentation to accompany this summary)*

Steve Shirley with SAS Institute presented:

- The SAS US Government team has been involved in anti-trafficking work for the past year. The focus has not just been analytics, but also bringing people on a national level to look at complex problems, such as how to improve services and use technology to collaborate. Today is about data and how data can be used to help others. His focus has been on detecting and preventing - training needs and leads to services and getting to the right people for justice and public safety. A strategic data initiative is needed to make this happen, so that is what they are here to talk about today. Bringing data together, repurposing it and sharing it in a cross-domain option.
- The Data for Good Program is free and covers many topic areas. Centralizing data from several providers / disciplines not only provides a great opportunity for analytics, but also for trust building and impactful strategic planning. The program can provide needed grant reports with the push of a button. Any example of how to use data is by applying the Protect, Prevent and Prosecute model from the US Dept of Justice to human trafficking. Identifying and merging data on potential traffickers, buyers and victims can lead to data driven interventions in case work, prosecutions and proactive investigations.

Discussion:

Question: How far along are you in the Texas project? Phase two, which means they will be up to 4500 users by the end of the year.

Do you currently have software you are using for victim services? Yes – they have developed a specific model and the platform is created. It allows referrals through the system and can be adapted.

Is it user friendly? What was deployed to Texas was the previous version and the next generation version coming out is much more user friendly. The previous version was user friendly with the case management side, but needed changes with the grant management side of the software.

Comment: There are a lot of really good use examples in this presentation. For example, merging secretary of state data for businesses, jail / prison calls, EMS reports, and individual municipality data will make the process in investigating shorter and more comprehensive.

Question: Data is wonderful and there are many existing resources to merge, but how do we make sure it's used to move forward? Presenters believes that the data will be used because it will be the fastest route to solve cases or follow leads.

Public Comment:

Pam Strickland – wearing two hats. First, the NC Coalition for Human Trafficking meeting welcomes all on August 2nd for their meeting. They are also presenting a webinar on how to engage churches in the movement in August. Secondly, representing Eastern NC Stop Human Trafficking would recommend and ask that the experts in the room be involved in the next creation of the poster / sign, as well as on the committees that have been forms.

Another public comment: Is there any effort to help train medical and other professionals on how to recognize and respond to potential victims? Sarah Tellis responds that the committee is planning to include that in their work with NC DHHS.

Wrap-Up and Next Steps:

No further business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Coles. The next meeting will be held on Thursday August 23rd from 10am-1pm at the Administrative Office of the Courts, Raleigh, NC.