

NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2019, 10:00am-1:00pm
NC Judicial Center
901 Corporate Center Drive, Raleigh NC, 27607

Commission Members Present:

Libby Coles, JusticeMatters, Inc.
Caitlin Brooks, Public at Large
Danielle Carman, Administrative Office of the Courts
Judge Sherri W. Elliott, NC Association of District Court Judges
Jennifer Haigwood, NC Department of Labor
Judge Claire V. Hill, North Carolina Conference of Superior Court Judges
Monika Johnson-Hostler, NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Jasmine McGhee, NC Department of Justice
Caitlin Ryland, Legal Aid of North Carolina
Angelica Wind, NC Coalition Against Human Trafficking
Suzanne Mauney Smith, Gaston County Police (by phone)
Thomas Bernard, Physician WakeMed North (by phone)
William M. Nichols, Ret. Major NC Highway Patrol
Pamela Cashwell, NC Department of Public Safety

Commission Members Not Present:

William "Billy" West, Cumberland County District Attorney

Commission Staff Present:

Christine S. Long, Executive Director

Members of the Public Present:

Please see public sign-in sheet.

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 (HTC) 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:

Chair Coles asked members of the Commission present and on call to introduce themselves.

Approval of the Minutes: October 24, 2019 meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2019 meeting was made, seconded, and passed with no amendments.

Recognition of Former HTC Member Ryan S. Boyce:

Chair Coles and Commission member Jennifer Haigwood both said a few words to thank Ryan Boyce for bringing his expertise, experience, and passion to bear in his service on the Human Trafficking Commission, and Chair Coles presented him with an award in recognition of his service.

Presentation: State v. Corey Oliver Smith, Durham County

Assistant District Attorney Kendra Montgomery-Blinn presented an overview of the case leading up to this recently secured conviction for Attempted Human Trafficking of a Minor and First-Degree Kidnapping. Her presentation included some of the difficulties that arose and lessons that were learned throughout the case and trial. Chair Coles recognized all the present team members for their efforts and success.

Staff Report:

Director Long gave the staff report on the 2019 calendar year in review. This consisted of the financial report, the activities taken by the Commission in 2019 to meet each of their six mandates, as well as previewing some of the events and projects coming up in 2020.

Committee Reports and Action Items:

Legislative Working Group:

Chair Cole announced that Committee Chair Jennifer Haigwood is stepping down, and formally appointed Caitlin Brooks as the incoming Chair. Former Committee Chair Haigwood stated that there is no report, and the next legislative session will convene on January 14, 2020.

Public Health Committee:

Committee Chair Thomas Bernard reported that members of the committee have been tasked with reaching out to other states that have implemented mandating training, and the committee will continue to research to explore possible directions for North Carolina.

Ad Hoc Committee on Standards:

No report.

Ad Hoc Appropriations Committee:

No report.

Public Comments:

Pam Strickland acknowledged the upcoming release of a new human trafficking documentary, Blind Eyes Opened, which will be shown in several theaters in North Carolina on January 23, 2020.

Grantee Presentation: True Justice International

Executive Director Traci Klein gave a presentation of True Justice International and reported on their use of funding through the commission grant. This included an overview and updates on their services: a restoration home and safe house, an outreach center (opened in April of 2019), implementing human trafficking education in multiple counties' public school systems, and addiction treatment for survivors.

Grantee Presentation: World Relief

Elise Riveness, the Anti-Human-Trafficking Program Director for World Relief, presented on the three components of their commission grant: (1) case management services integration, (2) the Triad Labor Trafficking Task Force, and (3) the creation of educational materials tailored to specific professions.

Grantee Presentation: Help, Incorporated

Victim Advocate Jessica Stultz shared updates on Help Incorporated's grant, which funded both the hiring of a Human Trafficking Case Manager and construction on an emergency shelter room for human trafficking victims within their Family Justice Center. She also presented on their successes and challenges from 2019, with successes including staff-wide human trafficking training, becoming a regional response team, and the continuation of many effective community partnerships.

Public Safety Committee Report:

Committee Chair Marc Nichols gave a summary of action steps that committee members have been discussing and developing a plan to execute. He identified specific agencies and entities who have communicated a willingness to take on discrete tasks.

Chair Remarks:

Chair Cole announced that she is stepping down as Chair and from the Commission after the meeting. She gave an overview of the achievements and highlights from the Commission's efforts over the past six years, and thanked a few key leaders for their

leadership, guidance, and support of the Commission. She received a standing ovation, and Commission member Cashwell presented her with a certificate of appreciation and spoke to the distinctiveness of her bipartisan approach.

Adjournment:

At 1 pm the meeting was adjourned by Chair Coles. The next meeting will be held on February 27, 2020 from 10am to 1pm at the NC Judicial Center on Corporate Center Drive in Raleigh.