



NC Human Trafficking Commission: General Meeting
Thursday, February 26, 2026, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
WebEx through the NC Judicial Center / Dogwood & Magnolia Board
Rooms (B1-1184A-B)

10:00 AM – Call to Order & Ethics Statement

Caroline Valand, Chair

Chair Valand opened the meeting and called to order. She then read the required Ethics Statement.

10:05 AM – Roll Call Attendance & Approval of the Minutes: 12/11/2025

Caroline Valand, Chair

Chair Valand conducted a dual roll call to document attendance and approve the minutes from the last meeting on December 11th, 2025. Commissioners in attendance at the meeting were Chris Bullard on behalf of Jennifer Haigwood, Dean Duncan on behalf of Dawn Ferrer, Simone Gilchrist, Deana Joy, Lillie Rhodes, Caitlin Ryland, Stephanie Tyson (not yet sworn in), Caroline Valand, and DA Billy West. Those that are members approved the meeting minutes from December 11th, 2025. No changes were noted and the minutes passed unanimously. Also in attendance were Commission Executive Director, Christine Long, and staff. Members of the public were also able to view or listen to the meeting via WebEx.

10:20 AM – NC Office of Violence Prevention Presentation

Siarra Scott, NC DPS - OVP

Chair Valand introduced Siarra Scott, the Director for the North Carolina Office of Violence Prevention. NC OVP is a newer office at the Department of Public Safety, established in March 2023. The NC Dept. of Health and Human Services played an integral role in building the foundation for OVP. Siarra provided some additional history and shared information about the office including their mission, core functions, primary audiences served, etc. A board was formed to help OVP move their work forward called the Community Violence Advisory Board. The board is comprised of representation from a variety of sectors. In August of 2025, Governor Stein did Executive Order 21 tasking NC DPS with moving forward new community safety initiatives. More information can be found in the presentation on our website.

10:36 AM – Prevent First NC

Kelly Baxter, Positive Childhood Alliance

Kelly Baxter, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Manager at Positive Childhood Alliance, shared about their new coalition, Prevent First NC, to prevent child sexual abuse in North Carolina. The coalition is starting to get some traction now after a yearlong building process and aims to be statewide, cross sector, and prevention first focused while prioritizing efforts that protect children before harm occurs. Kelly explained the role the coalition would play within the community while highlighting the impact and what success would look like. More information can be found in the presentation on our website.

10:46 AM – Engage Together

Tammy Sneed, Director of Community Solutions

Chair Valand introduced Tammy Sneed, Director for Engage Together at Altus Solutions. Tammy talked with North Carolina stakeholders about conducting a comprehensive statewide assessment here. The assessment would highlight our current strengths, gaps, needs, vulnerabilities and opportunities for community-wide engagement to end and prevent human trafficking in North Carolina. Tammy shared an assessment overview and a completed report from Alabama. The report includes the overall assessment and recommendations based on the findings. The scope of research is vast, including all efforts by every sector compiled and broken down by category. There is a cost associated with the assessment. Engage Together recommends priorities and next steps based on the research and data gathered and assessed. More information can be found in the presentation on our website.

11:29 AM – HTC Vetting Project

Latiana Appleberry, Survivor Network NC

Executive Director Christine Long introduced Latiana Appleberry, Executive Director of Survivor Network NC, to present a survivor-centered vetting framework being developed in conjunction with the HTC. The draft vetting application packet would be used for service providers in North Carolina. Latiana shared the purpose for the development of the vetting process and provided an update on the phase 1 framework development. More information can be found in the presentation on our website.

11:44 AM – General Staff Report

Christine Long

Executive Director Christine Long began the report by providing updates on past training conducted as well as upcoming training courses and events. Christine shared local, regional, and national changes relevant to our efforts including updates on the National Hotline, various meetings, and projects underway. Some initiatives Christine mentioned include the NC New American Navigator Program led by the North Carolina State Refugee Office, the Bridge Days event hosted by Arnold Ventures, efforts being made under our GCC Grant including contracts with expert child welfare and law enforcement professionals, and more. Additional information can be found in the staff report on our website.

11:55 AM – Public Comment

Caroline Valand, Chair

Chair Valand opened the floor for public comments. There was one comment.

12:03 PM – Adjournment

Caroline Valand, Chair

Chair Valand adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is on Thursday, April 23rd, 2026.