



NC Human Trafficking Commission: General Meeting
Thursday, August 25th, 2022, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
WebEx through the NC Judicial Center / Hickory Boardroom (A1-101)

10:00 AM – Call to Order & Roll Call Attendance

Committee Chair, Haigwood

Committee Chair Haigwood opened the meeting and read the required ethics statement. She then conducted a verbal roll call to document attendance. Committee members in attendance at the meeting were Caitlin Brooks, Maggie Brewer, Jennifer Haigwood, Judge Claire V. Hill, Suzanne Mauney-Smith, Jasmine McGhee, Tina Pennington, and William “Billy” West. Also in attendance were Commission Executive Director, Christine Long, Project Analyst, Nancy Hagan, and Administrative Secretary, Lauren Amato. Members of the public were also able to view or listen to the meeting via WebEx.

10:05 AM – Ethics Reminder & Approval of the Minutes

Jennifer Haigwood

Committee Chair Haigwood thanked all in attendance and asked if there were changes to the minutes from the June 23rd meeting. No changes were noted, Committee Chair Haigwood called the role for approval of the minutes and the minutes were passed unanimously.

10:15 AM – Committee Reports and Action Items

Legislative Committee – Caitlin Brooks

No Legislative Committee update while we work through the appropriations.

Public Safety Committee – Marc Nichols

Commission Executive Director, Christine Long updated a few things on behalf of the committee chair. There have been a few different requests that have come in for training. The committee chair hopes to have a representative at one of the events with the Justice Academy. The committee received a request from the Charlotte area for additional training and will pursue that conversation.

Public Health Committee – Thomas Bernard

No public health committee update.

Appropriations Committee – Angelica Wind

Commission Executive Director, Christine Long and Committee Chair Wind provided updates regarding the Section 16.22 Facility Improvement Grants. HTC staff issued the original proposals on June 1st and the proposals were due by June 30th. Section 16.22 funds are the grants for Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault agencies that were found eligible through the NCCWYI for a one-time facility improvement. The agencies were allowed to request up to \$45,000.00 to enhance the use of the facility for agencies. The HTC received about 70 applications from agencies and 64 were awarded. The HTC staff are working on DocuSign access now to create the contracts. The second round RFP went out on August 10th and is due on September 30th.

Other updates include the closing of the two position postings – one grant manager and one grant administrator. HTC staff are reviewing the applications for interviews. Two grant managers started this week – Roxana Zelada-Lewis and Kristen Howe.

Section 16.23 is also for Economic Assistance to Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault agencies. The HTC staff are trying to get these documents ready to issue through an RFP. The agencies in this section will be considered beneficiaries instead of sub-recipients. AOC has the draft Terms and Conditions done for this section as long as the committee has no changes. The Grants Management System is still a possibility, AOC is waiting for the quote from DOT. HTC staff still need to develop and finalize the budgets, risk assessment, and monitoring plans and will work internally with AOC on these. The plan is to look at Section 16.20 which is funding for human trafficking and direct services after Section 16.23. Section 16.20 lists 25 eligible agencies.

11:00 AM – Case Presentation: Davidson NC Labor Trafficking

HSI Special Agent Kelly Harrison

Special Agent Harrison conducted a power point presentation on U.S. vs. Thuy Tien Luong. This case highlights an example of labor trafficking in nail salons and resulted in a successful conviction.

11:30 AM – Chair Remarks

Jennifer Haigwood

Committee Chair Haigwood informed the commission of two policies sent through email for commissioner review and discussion. The policies need reviewed before the next meeting. Please email any questions or needed clarification to Jennifer Haigwood or Christine Long and be prepared to vote in October.

The annual human trafficking conference is coming up and is scheduled for 2 weeks from now. The conference is in a different location than last year and Chair Haigwood encouraged members to register and attend as many sessions as they can. Chair Haigwood announced that Jasmine McGhee has been awarded the Eisenhower Fellowship Program and asked Commissioner McGhee to talk briefly about the fellowship. Commission Chair Haigwood then announced that she has changed positions within NC DOL. Plans for a new chair will be discussed in the coming months because the new position limits her ability to serve as chair.

11:45 AM – Staff Report

Christine Long and Nancy Hagan

HTC staff share a PowerPoint presentation that highlights updates since the last commission meeting.

There are a few general updates including additional staff to the commission and the first is Tara Minter. Tara has been in her role at AOC since 2018. She started training court personnel and is now specifically training on human trafficking. Christine has previously met with leadership and will have Tara join our team officially on September 1st. Tara will wrap up serving as an officer and on the board in December of this year. She worked for the NCCWYI under the DOA and more specifically deals with DV/SA but started to get more into human trafficking which then led to her coordinating events. We would also like to introduce Alex Bumgardner as an MSW Intern. We will have Alex three days a week until April. Alex has worked the past few years in anti-trafficking through project FIGHT as a case manager and graduated from NC State planning on working in the anti-trafficking field. She has enjoyed her time as a service provider and is currently going back to school to get her master's in social work. We are still working on filling those other positions.

Director Long was very grateful to be invited by the SBI to be a part of their interview process for the Assistant Special Agent in Charge with the new human trafficking unit. The SBI has received funding and approval for eight dedicated positions through the 2021 appropriations act. While they have hired four of the specialized agents, they took one of the eight positions and created an SBI Assistant Special Agent in Charge of human trafficking.

The 2022 Annual Conference is September 7th and 8th at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills. Featured speakers are Tanya Gould, Bill Woolf, and Lindsey Lane. There are over 300 participants signed up at this point, with more

expected. The HTC will be providing snacks and breakfast this year, but plan to do the vendor tables a little bit differently. Instead of offering nonprofit local groups tables, staff are trying to fill those vendor tables with businesses.

12:30 PM – Public Comment

Jennifer Haigwood

Pam Strickland, the founder of NC Stop Human Trafficking, helped to form the NC Demand Reduction Task Force which has broken up into several different teams. One team is law enforcement engagement and they have planned a day long training for 9/6 at the same location as the conference. The two speakers are Rick Hoffman and Stephanie Powell. The demand reduction task force is also having a meeting the Friday after the conference at the same location.

1:00 PM - Adjournment

Jennifer Haigwood

Committee Chair Haigwood adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is on October 27th, 2022.