



NC Human Trafficking Commission: General Meeting
Thursday, October 27th, 2022, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
WebEx through the NC Judicial Center / Hickory Boardroom (A1-101)

10:03 AM – Ethics Reminder & Approval of the Minutes 8/25/2022

Commission Chair

Commission Chair Haigwood opened the meeting and read the required ethics statement. She then thanked all in attendance and asked if there were changes to the minutes from the August 25th meeting. Suzanne Mauney-Smith attended the August meeting but wasn't listed as attending. This will be corrected in the current draft. DA Billy West made a motion to pass the minutes and the minutes were passed unanimously.

10:04 AM – Swearing In: Judge Scott Ussery, Chief District Court Judge and President of the NC Association of District Court Judges was sworn in by Judge Andrew T. Heath, the Director of the NC Administrative Office of the Courts. Judge Ussery gave a brief introduction of himself and will assume the commission seat for the President of the Association.

10:07 AM – Call to Order & Roll Call Attendance

Jennifer Haigwood

Commission Chair Haigwood conducted a verbal roll call to document attendance. Commissioners in attendance at the meeting were Amy Auth, Judge Scott Ussery, Jennifer Haigwood, Judge Claire Hill, Suzanne Mauney-Smith, William West, and Angelica Wind. Also in attendance were Commission Executive Director, Christine Long, and Project Analyst, Nancy Hagan. Members of the public were also able to view or listen to the meeting via WebEx.

10:11 AM – Committee Reports and Action Items

Legislative Committee – Caitlin Brooks

Chair Haigwood share that there is no Legislative Committee update while the commission staff and the Appropriations Committee is working diligently to get the grants out. There may be some movement soon. The commission has had some requests from General Assembly members to discuss legislation. In addition, the commission was asked to make a presentation to the JP Oversight Committee and staff conducted a 15-minute presentation. There were positive responses from that update and a few people reached out about assisting to write potential legislation. Caitlin will have some new information to report.

Public Safety Committee – Marc Nichols

No Public Safety Committee update.

Public Health Committee – Thomas Bernard

No public health committee update.

Appropriations Committee – Angelica Wind

Grant Managers, Roxana Zelada-Lewis and Kristen Howe provide brief updates regarding the Section 16.22

Facility Improvement Grants. All Round 1 Grant Agreements have been signed; AOC Finance and Budget Management are working on the final steps to release the funds. Staff have submitted all W-9 forms to Finance to set up each agency in the state accounting system and have been informed that those forms have been processed. The Round 2 RFP was issued on August 10th, 2022, and proposals were due by September 30th, 2022. There were 61 applications received, 8 of those being new applicants. The amounts varied from \$6,000.00 to \$200,000.00 for a total of over \$4,000,000.00. All applications have been reviewed by the Grant Managers and in the October 24th Appropriations Meeting, the committee voted to award 61 agencies with a for a total of \$2,075,586.00. Adjustment notices will be sent to all applicants requesting a budget adjustment to reflect the equal reduction applied to applicants. Once staff receive the revised budgets, the grant agreements will go out.

The Grant Managers attended a two-day training sponsored by NC-PRO on Monitoring Federal Grants for Pass-Through Entities on September 27th and 28th. They met again with NC-PRO on Monday, October 17th, and will plan to have regular check-ins and attend monthly TA calls. Roxana and Kristen are revising and creating forms to make the process of updating information easier for applicants, ex. the conflict of interest. Budgets and a risk assessment will still need to be developed and finalized. Section 16.23 RFP was released on Wednesday, October 26th, 2022, and applications are due via email by Wednesday, November 30th at 5:00 PM. This section is the sum of \$15,000,000.00 in nonrecurring funds to be used to reduce the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on organizations that provide domestic violence and sexual assault services across the state. The commission is holding back 10% of this funding for administrative costs, as allowed per ARPA funding regulations. Section 16.23 funds can be applied as early as July 1, 2021 and the grant contract end is being suggested as June 30, 2024. Staff have created a general HTC email address in which to receive applications, nchtc@nccourts.org. (Please see power point presentation for more information)

10:40 AM – Adoption of HTC policies

Jennifer Haigwood

There are two policies that are already applicable to the Judicial Branch and its employees. General counsel suggested that we look at adopting these policies. There isn't anything to sign, we are simply adopting these policies as a commission. Judge Ussery motions to approve the two Judicial Branch policies and Angelica Wind seconds the motion. The policies were adopted unanimously.

10:45 AM – Spotlight: Debt Bondage Repair Act

Sarah Byrne, Moore & Van Allen

Moore & Van Allen provides power point guidance on a new law related to the financial exploitation of human trafficking survivors. They are pleased to share important news about the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB's) recent release of an amendment to Regulation V, which implements the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA). The new rule, "Prohibition on Inclusion of Adverse Information in Consumer Reporting in Cases of Human Trafficking," will help many survivors of trafficking restore their credit status after financial exploitation. This rule is in response to the Debt Bondage Repair Act (DBRA) which was enacted late last year as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. (Please see power point presentation for more information)

11:10 AM – Chair Remarks

Jennifer Haigwood

Commission Chair Haigwood notes that the commission had a very successful conference. The opening session was done by Bill Woolf. It's already been mentioned that on September 15th, the HTC presented to the JP Oversight Committee and provided the 6-month report to the legislature on the progress of the grant appropriations. Other news to share is that the commission is starting to have preliminary conversations about human trafficking awareness month in January.

Commission staff attended a September training done by NC Agribusiness Council, Farm Labor Contractor

Training (FLC). A certification or accreditation process has been in the works for several years. Chair Haigwood reports that the commission hopes to have someone come and present about that in our December meeting.

Lastly, Chair Haigwood thanks commissioners for being able to accommodate and reschedule the December meeting. The meeting will be Chair Haigwood's last meeting as chair and will be the last general commission meeting of the year.

11:15 AM – Staff Report

Christine Long and Nancy Hagan

Executive Director, Christine Long and Project Analyst, Nancy Hagan provide general updates. (Please see power point presentation for more information)

11:48 AM – Public Comment

Jennifer Haigwood

NC Stop Human Trafficking announces how to connect with the NC Demand Reduction Task Force to attend meetings or training.

11:50 AM - Adjournment

Jennifer Haigwood

Judge Ussery moves to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Amy Auth seconds the motion to adjourn. Chair Haigwood approves the motion and adjourns. The next meeting is on December 7th, 2022.