

NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2021, 10:00am-12:00pm

Meeting Conducted In-person and by WebEx* through the NC Judicial Center

Commission Members in Attendance In-person or by Video or Phone:

Dr. Thomas Bernard, WakeMed

Maggie Brewer, NC Department of Public Safety

Amy Auth, NC Administrative Office of the Courts

Jennifer Haigwood, NC Department of Labor

Deana Joy, NC Child Advocacy Center

Jasmine McGhee, NC Department of Justice

William Nichols, NC Sheriffs' Association

Holly Thompson, Standing in for Caitlin Ryland, Legal Aid of NC

Suzanne Mauney Smith, Assistant Police Chief, Gaston County Police Dept.

William "Billy" West, Cumberland County District Attorney

Angelica Wind, NC Coalition Against Human Trafficking (Joined at 11am)

Commission Staff Present In-person or by Video:

Christine Long, Executive Director

Dr. Nancy Hagan, Training Coordinator

*Members of the public were invited to watch the meeting and access meeting materials through a stream provided on the website.

Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

Deputy Director Maggie Brewer was sworn in by Judge Richard D. Dietz, Court of Appeals 12. It was stated that Deputy Director Brewer had no conflict of interest according to the State Ethics Commission and her biography was read to the committee.

Roll Call:

The Chair 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.

Approval of the Minutes: August 26, 2021

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee Reports and Action Items:

Legislative Committee:

Director Long shared updates to the commission concerning the state budget and that the 2021 Shared Hope International Report Card would be issued in November. Shared Hope has created a new format and scoring, so it is expected that all states will be starting with lower scores. Chair Haigwood commented on the possibility of reengaging the commission's appropriations committee depending on the outcome of the state budget.

Public Safety Committee Report:

Public Safety Committee Chair Nichols announced that the Texas DPS Interdiction for the Protection of Children's train-the-trainer course would occur November 15-16 at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh, NC. Chair Nichols commented on training the public sector, particularly as it relates to transit and the importance of the airport signage campaign.

Public Health Committee Report:

Committee Chair Dr. Bernard mentioned his hope of refocusing their committee and setting up an agenda for the first of the year.

Staff Report:

Director Long gave an update on the Human Trafficking Conference that took place September 15-16 in Raleigh, NC. 276 registered, 209 attended, 6 commissioners attended, there were a range of professions and 26 vendor tables. The keynote address was given by Lindsey Roberson and several workshops were popular, such as former ADA Lindsey Lane's overview of the a case from Cumberland County.

Presentation: Bail Bonding:

District Commander Josh Falls and Special Agent Tyler Carpenter with the NC Department of Insurance provided a presentation on Bail Bonding. They discussed the distinction between different types of bondsmen in NC, how many were licensed in NC, the powers they have and the connection that the trade of bondsman has with human trafficking.

Chair Remarks:

Chair Haigwood thanked the NC Administrative Office of the Courts for putting on the Human Trafficking Conference.

Public Comment:

There were no comments from the public.

Adjournment:

At 12pm the meeting was adjourned by Chair Haigwood. The next meeting will be held on December 9, 2021.