

NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2020, 10:00am-12:00pm
Meeting Conducted by WebEx* through the NC Judicial Center

Commission Members in Attendance by Video or Phone:

Danielle Carman, Administrative Office of the Courts
Judge Claire Hill, NC Conference of Superior Court Judges
Jennifer Haigwood, NC Department of Labor
Caitlin Brooks, Public-at-Large
Pam Cashwell, NC Department of Public Safety
Tammy Harris, The Ursus Institute
Deana Joy, NC Child Advocacy Center
Jasmine McGhee, NC Department of Justice
Caitlin Ryland, Legal Aid of North Carolina
Angelica Wind, NC Coalition Against Human Trafficking (*signed off at 11am*)
Suzanne Mauney Smith, Gaston County Police
William M. Nichols, Ret. Major NC Highway Patrol (*joined at 10:09am*)
William R. West, District Attorney (*joined at 10:10am*)

Commission Staff Present by video or phone:

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 and Roll Call:

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.

Conflict of Interest Statements:

Chair Haigwood read into the record the State Ethics Commission's "Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest" letters for Commissioners Dr. Tommy Bernard and Angelica Wind. a conflict of interest with both Dr. Bernard and Angelica Wind. Both evaluations resulted in the following statement – "We did not find an actual conflict of interest, but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity."

Approval of the Minutes: October 22, 2020

Due to new public meeting requirements for virtual meetings during the pandemic, the motion to approve the October 22, 2020 meeting minutes was approved through a roll-call vote. The minutes were approved unanimously, with Commissioners Cashwell and McGhee abstaining.

Committee Reports and Action Items:

Legislative Committee:

Committee Chair Brooks discussed reoccurring funding and discussed changing the language of the proposed bill. She gave everyone an opportunity to talk about amending the language of the proposed bill.

Chair Haigwood entertained a motion to approve request for \$500,000 in recurring state appropriations to fund staff and other operations of the Human Trafficking Commission. The vote was unanimous, with Commissioner Ryland abstaining.

Public Safety Committee Report:

Committee Chair Nichols gave a summary of efforts the committee has been making. He discussed the outreach that has been done for law enforcement. They are currently working on podcasts for educating the public that will be complete in the near future.

2020 Training Survey and 2021 Training Plan

Dr. Nancy Hagen explained the training survey from 2020. She said that 43% of respondents identified as beginners in the topic of human trafficking education which means a lot of training needs to be done. The demand for training and technical assistance is high. Community awareness was reported as the number one service gap, with emphasis on people needing more accurate information. Prevention of human trafficking was also identified as a big need. The top three audiences for training are community members, law enforcement, and service providers. The goal is to have a human trafficking symposium in 2021 but will be dependent on the pandemic.

Staff Report:

Executive Director Long played two human trafficking awareness videos. She presented a slide show about the public awareness grant. The human trafficking resource directory is now available on the website. A resource library including fact sheets, wallet cards and Spanish handouts has been made available. Executive Director Long reminded everyone that January is human trafficking awareness month.

Chair Remarks:

Chair Haigwood announced that she is very excited and encouraged about all of the projects the commission is working on. Chair Haigwood updated the group on her change in position at the NC Department of Labor. There is a new Labor Commissioner, Josh Dobson, who would like to attend the February meeting. He is excited to learn more about what the commission does.

Adjournment:

At 12 pm the meeting was adjourned by Chair Haigwood. The next meeting will be held on February 25th, 2021.