



NC Human Trafficking Commission: General Meeting
Thursday, February 27, 2025, 10:00 AM – 12:01 PM
WebEx through the NC Judicial Center / Hickory Board Room (A-1-101)

10:00 AM – Call to Order & Swearing in of Judge Stephanie Reese & Lillie Rhodes

Marc Nichols & Christine Long
Judge Amanda Wilson

Committee Chair Marc Nichols opened the meeting and called to order. Judge Stephanie Reese was unable to attend the meeting due to trial. Lillie Rhodes was sworn in by Judge Wilson.

10:02 AM – Roster Update & Roll Call Attendance

Marc Nichols & Christine Long

Christine provided updates on the commission roster. Marc conducted a verbal roll call to document attendance. Commissioners in attendance at the meeting were Caitlin Brooks (joined 10:26 am), Chris Bullard on behalf of Jennifer Haigwood, Dean Duncan on behalf of Dawn Ferrer, Simone Gilchrist on behalf of Kindl Detar, Dr. Corinna Myers, Marc Nichols, Tina Pennington, Captain Jordan Reese, Lillie Rhodes, Caitlin Ryland, DA Billy West, and Judge Amanda Wilson. 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.

10:07 AM – Ethics Statement

Marc Nichols & Christine Long

Christine thanked all in attendance and read the required ethics statement.

10:08 AM – Public Safety Updates:

Marc Nichols

-NC Highway Patrol

Captain Jonathan Davis

Marc introduced Captain Jonathan Davis to provide an update on the State Highway Patrol. Captain Davis talked about the different initiatives and trainings the SHP has conducted including Interdiction for the Protection of Children.

10:32 AM – Approval of the Minutes: 12/12/2024

Marc Nichols & Christine Long

Christine asked if there were changes to the minutes from the December 12th, 2024, meeting. No changes were noted. Judge Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes, and Marc seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

10:32 AM – Public Safety Highlight:

Steven Holmes, Assistant Director NC ISAAC

Howard G. Buffet Foundation Grant

-NC SBI (Lead Agency)

-NC Conference of District attorneys

Bayleigh Adams, Human Trafficking Legal Assistant

-Safe Alliance

Cori Goldstein, Chief Program Officer
-NC SBI Human Trafficking unit and BeTA unit
Hannah Cramer, Intelligence Analyst

Marc gave a synopsis of the next action item then gave the floor to Steven Holmes with the State Bureau of Investigation. Steven is one of the Assistant Directors of the SBI; he oversees the SBI's human trafficking efforts. The SBI has a grant through the Howard G. Buffet Foundation and works in collaboration with the Conference of DAs and Safe Alliance. Intelligence Analyst Hannah Cramer spoke on her role and what the HT and BeTA units have been working on. Kimberly Spahos with the Conference of DAs gave an update next. The first team member they hired as part of the grant was Bayleigh Adams. North Carolina's grant with the Buffet Foundation focuses on both the special victim's component and financial crime component of human trafficking. The last to brief the commission on their involvement with the grant was Cori Goldstein with Safe Alliance. Grantees are currently securing positions for the project.

10:45 AM – Public Safety Presentation:

-Amtrak Office of Intelligence and Analysis

Marc Nichols
Sergeant Nicholas Ingram
Detective Glenn Rambo
Communications Manager James "Jim" Lewis

Marc introduced Sergeant Nicholas Ingram with Amtrak police to present next. Amtrak is a corporation run and owned by the federal government. Amtrak PD can operate anywhere where the train operates in addition to working any Amtrak related case with other law enforcement agencies. Detective Rambo is assigned to the ISAAC Fusion Center and operates as the liaison for the 46 states Amtrak operates in. James Lewis, Communications Manager for Amtrak PD, is also the lead of the human trafficking Amtrak PD working group. As a national law enforcement agency, the team focuses on training, outreach and partnerships to most effectively raise awareness and combat human trafficking within the unique railroad environment. *See power point for presentation details.*

11:20 AM – Program report: Housing Opportunity

Rachel Parker, Director
Family Services

Director of Interpersonal Violence Services, Rachel Parker, joined the meeting virtually to talk about the award they received from the Office for Victims of Crime. The anti-human trafficking housing services grant will finish at the end of September 2026. The housing support services provided can be short term but ultimately the goal is to provide long-term housing. Rachel shared Family Service's experience so far as well as some of the requisites for participants of the housing program.

11:24 AM – Commission Business: discussion on Working Groups and Committees

Marc Nichols & Christine Long

The next meeting may include a discussion led by Chair Brewer surrounding the commission's committees. The intent is to brainstorm the committees' structure, purpose, and which might be most helpful.

11:26 AM – General Staff Report

Ashley Tauscher and Christine Long

Christine began the report by directing attendees to the Training and Event Report Handout. It covers the training and events conducted since the last meeting. She continued the report with updates on grants followed by updates from the NC Housing Finance Agency. Check-ins were regular with agencies and grantees as recovery efforts and federal changes continued. A survey to inventory the number of human trafficking beds available will be sent to direct service providers. Additional handouts and reports to come soon. Christine covered a few other topics including grant renewals, a potential upcoming conference, and the National Human Trafficking Hotline. *See power point for presentation details.*

11:54 AM – Public Comment**Marc Nichols & Christine Long**

Marc opened the floor for public comment. There were comments from the virtual chat as well as the physical meeting room.

12:01 PM – Adjournment**Marc Nichols & Christine Long**

Proxy Dean Duncan moved to adjourn the meeting. Caitlin Ryland seconded the motion. Marc adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is Thursday, April 24th, 2025.