

NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2021, 10:00am-12:00pm
Meeting Conducted by WebEx* through the NC Judicial Center

Commission Members in Attendance by Video or Phone:

Jennifer Haigwood, NC Department of Labor
Caitlin Brooks, Public-at-Large
Amy Auth, NC Administrative Office of the Courts (*Joined at 10:15am*)
Caitlin Ryland, Legal Aid of North Carolina
Suzanne Mauney Smith, Gaston County Police
Dr. Tommy Bernard, WakeMed (*Joined at 11:02am*)
William “Billy” West, Cumberland County District Attorney
Jasmine McGhee, NC Department of Justice (*Joined at 10:25am; exit 11:15am*)
William Nichols, NC Sheriff’s Association
Angelica Wind, NC Coalition Against Human Trafficking (*exit 11am*)
Judge Claire Hill, NC Conference of Superior Courts

Commission Staff Present 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 and Roll Call:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05am 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.

Adjustment to the Agenda:

Chair Haigwood informed the Commissioners that she was making an alteration to the agenda. The sections labeled “Staff Report” and “Chair Report” will be switched on the agenda.

Approval of the Minutes: June 24, 2021

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee Reports and Action Items:

Legislative Committee:

Legislative Committee Chair Brooks was excited to announce that the Commission was slated to receive \$250,000 in recurring funding in both the Senate and House versions of the state budget. SB 539 (Disclose Human Trafficking Conviction / Custody) is still sitting in the House Rules Committee until the budget process is complete but does not seem to have opposition. SB 35 Marriage Law / Legal Age of Marriage bill will be signed by Governor Cooper today. Although this Commission did not introduce this bill, we have supported its passage. Committee Chair Brooks will represent the Commission at the signing today. The next committee meeting is set for the end of September at 10:30am.

Public Health Committee Report:

Committee Chair Dr. Bernard updated the Commission on the committee's work. The committee has not met again, due to COVID but the health care training program is being conducted virtually through a contract with WakeAHEC.

Public Safety Committee Report:

Public Safety Committee Chair Nichols announced that they conducted a training on human trafficking in illicit massage in July. This was through partnership with the South Carolina Task Force and Collective Liberty was brought in for instruction. The next focus is the Texas DPS Interdiction for the Protection of Children's train-the-trainer course. It will occur the week of November 15th and is being organized by SBI Special Agent in Charge Kellie Hodges and State Highway Patrol Master Trooper Cuff. Both are members of the Public Safety Subcommittee.

Chair Remarks:

Chair Haigwood announced that Maggie Brewer, Deputy Director Community Corrections has been appointed to the NC DPS seat. She will be replacing Pamela Cashwell, who was appointed Secretary of the Department of Administration. The Commission hopes to swear in Deputy Director Brewer at the next meeting.

Chair Haigwood gave time of the agenda to Commissioner Angelica Wind, who represents NCCAHT on the commission. Commissioner Wind reported that she has made an employment switch but will still continue her role on the commission through the NCCAHT seat.

Staff Report:

Director Long and Nancy Hagan gave an HTC Staff Update and highlighted some of the trainings that have occurred in the last couple of months. They discussed the contracts

that the HTC has right now for training and the technical assistance grant. HTC staff are currently finalizing registration details for the 2021 Conference in Raleigh next month. Staff discussed COVID safety precautions for the conference.

Public Comment:

Several members of the public spoke to Commissioners about current events. Commissioner West shared a success story of a conviction where the trafficker was sentenced to 42 years. The case was identified through a routine traffic stop.

Adjournment:

At 11:45 am the meeting was adjourned by Chair Haigwood. The next meeting will be held on October 28, 2021.

DRAFT