

**NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION Meeting Minutes**  
**February 25, 2021, 10:00am-12:00pm**  
**Meeting Conducted by WebEx\* through the NC Judicial Center**

**Commission Members in Attendance by Video or Phone:**

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 (*joined at 10:30am*)  
Jasmine McGhee, NC Department of Justice  
Caitlin Ryland, Legal Aid of North Carolina  
Suzanne Mauney Smith, Gaston County Police  
Dr. Tommy Bernard, WakeMed (*joined at 10:09am*)  
William "Billy" West, Cumberland County District Attorney  
Angelica Wind, NCCAHT (*joined 11:05am and exited at 11:15am*)

**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 WebEx meeting and access meeting materials through 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.

**Approval of the Minutes: January 26, 2021 & December 10, 2020**

Due to public meeting requirements for virtual meetings during the pandemic, the motion to approve the December 10, 2020 and January 26, 2021 meeting minutes were approved through a roll-call vote. The minutes were approved unanimously, with Judge Hill abstaining as a non-voting member.

**Welcoming Remarks from the AOC:**

Judge Andrew Heath, new Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts introduced himself and made brief remarks to the Commission.

### **Welcoming Remarks from NCDOL:**

Chair Haigwood introduced the new North Carolina Commissioner of Labor, Josh Dobson. Dobson greeted members and said he was looking forward to working with everyone and learning more about the exciting initiatives that they are working on.

### **Committee Reports and Action Items:**

#### **Legislative Committee:**

Legislative Committee Chair Brooks updated the Commission on the committee's most recent meeting. She also shared with the Commission the various meetings and conversations she is having with members of the General Assembly about the appropriations request and the legislative recommendations.

#### **Public Safety Committee Report:**

In the committee chair's absence, Director Long provided an update on the work of the Public Safety Committee. The summary included plans to establish a Human Trafficking Investigator Certificate through the North Carolina Justice Academy. Direct Trevor Allen invited the Commission to also submit editorial comments for review on the human trafficking section of North Carolina's Basic Law Enforcement Training curricula. Director Long will bring this to the committee this week.

#### **Public Health Committee Report:**

Committee Chair Dr. Bernard updated the Commission on the committee's recent work. He discussed the HT awareness training presentation that the group has been working on since last year.

### **Presentation: Internet Crimes Against Children**

SBI Special Agent in Charge, Kevin Roughton made a presentation on Internet Crimes Against Children. Commission members asked a series of questions based on points that SAC Roughton made during the presentation. Since the start of the pandemic, reports of such crimes have significantly increased from roughly 4800 in 2019 to 9300 in 2020.

### **Staff Report:**

Director Long gave an HTC Staff Update which covered – Human Trafficking Awareness Month (January), recent podcasts published, an update on the Training and Technical Assistance Grant, and several other topics that will be coming up soon.

**Chair Remarks:**

Chair Haigwood announced that she is very excited and encouraged about all of the projects the commission is working on. The Chair updated the group on her change in position at the NC Department of Labor and thanked everyone for their hard work.

**Public Comment:**

The Chair allowed time for several members of the public to make comments to the Commissioners.

**Adjournment:**

At 12 pm the meeting was adjourned by Chair Haigwood. The next meeting will be held on April 22, 2021.

DRAFT