



NC Human Trafficking Commission: General Meeting
Thursday, December 12, 2024, 10:02 AM – 11:09 AM
WebEx through the NC Judicial Center / Hickory Board Room (A-1-101)

10:02 AM – Call to Order, Roll Call Attendance, & Ethics Statement

Maggie Brewer

Chair Brewer opened the meeting and called to order. She thanked all in attendance and read the required ethics statement. Chair Brewer then conducted a verbal roll call to document attendance. Commissioners in attendance at the meeting were Maggie Brewer, Judge Wilson, Jennifer Haigwood, Judge Claire Hill, Kindi Detar, Dr. Myers, Marc Nichols, Leah Arnold on behalf of Caitlin Ryland, DA Billy West, and Dawn Ferrer. Also in attendance were Commission Executive Director, Christine Long, Grants Administrator, James Melvin, Grant Managers, Kristen Howe, Hampton White, Marcus Melvin and Molly Overholt, Court Management Specialist, Ashley Tauscher, and Administrative Secretary, Lauren Amato. Members of the public were also able to view or listen to the meeting via WebEx.

10:04 AM – Approval of the Minutes: 12/12/2024

Maggie Brewer

Chair Brewer asked if there were changes to the minutes from the December 12th, 2024, meeting. No changes were noted. Commissioner Marc Nichols made a motion to approve the minutes, and DA Billy West seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

10:05 AM – Committee Reports and Action Items

Maggie Brewer

Legislative Committee

Christine Long on behalf of Caitlin Brooks

Christine informed the Commission this is the time of year when we are putting ideas together and meeting with AOC legislative liaisons. We believe AOC will include our request in their portion of the budget for recurring administrative funds for our recurring grant so we can do that work and monitor those grantees.

Public Health Committee

Dr. Corrina Myers

Dr. Myers talked about the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians' interest in having someone speak about human trafficking at their next winter meeting. Dr. Myers also spoke with one of the committee members of the NCAFP and hopes to put together a presentation to give at that conference.

Appropriations Committee

HTC Staff – [Appropriations Report](#)

Christine began the report on the committee with some basic updates. We are still looking for a permanent chair for the committee. Commission staff have been working with a company called Submittable to help develop a grant management system. Submittable acquired a company called Wizehive who has software called Next Gen. We are in the works of switching over to Next Gen because the software does everything we

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Future 2025 Meeting Date(s): April 24th, June 26th, August 28th, October 23rd, and December 11th.

want and need it to. A section is being built for the new grant appropriation with the hope that the applications will be submitted, scored, and awarded through the new system.

See power point for presentation details.

Public Safety Committee

Marc Nichols

Marc introduced Lieutenant Jonathan Davis with the State Highway Patrol. Lt. Davis has been leading the IPC trainings throughout the state and coordinating with various organizations including the HTC to make them happen. IPC or Interdiction for the Protection of Children is a program developed in Texas back in 2008 that came to NC in 2017. There was an IPC training earlier in the month on December 3rd and 4th; it was the largest class they've had so far including participants from the local, state, and federal levels. This training was conducted at the Samarcand Training Academy in Jackson Springs. A good partnership was formed, and we were invited back. The next training will be in March in Johnston County. The plan is to do a three-day train-the-trainer class at here at the NCAOC. Texas DPS is returning as well. Troopers Cody Allen and Steven Kendall just returned from being certified as trainers in Texas. Marc inquired about the service years of the troopers attending the training; it tends to be a variety. Lt. Davis noted how earlier this year every basic cadet school started providing a 2-hour intro IPC class. He provided some case examples followed by discussion around missing persons processes. Marc introduced another partner to the Commission, Brent Culbertson, Chief of Staff at the State Bureau of Investigation. Chair Brewer thanked Lt. Davis for including the Dept. of Adult Corrections Probation Officers in the trainings. There has been a lot of positive feedback.

10:31 AM – [General Staff Report](#)

Ashley Tauscher and Christine Long

Ashley began the report by covering the training and events conducted since the last meeting. There are only a couple training and events planned so far in 2025. The Grants Manager, Molly Overholt, has developed materials for the grant from the latest appropriation and is waiting for approval to release the Request for Proposals. Christine continued the updates informing the Commission. *See power point for presentation details.*

10:43 AM – Study on Human Trafficking of Athletes – No Crying in Sports: The Playbook of Athlete Trafficking ([Presentation](#) & [Poster](#))

Drake Gomez, BSW Student NCSU

Drake Gomez introduced himself and went on to tell the Commission about the study. Much of the work being done on the trafficking of athletes is in Europe. The Global Sports Industry is expected to pass global GDP as sports are a lucrative industry. The money attracts traffickers to pose as recruiters, agents, coaches, etc. and exploit these athletes. There is a flow diagram that shows how they were able to conceptualize it linked and on our website. It can be difficult for athletes to recognize they're in a trafficking situation because of how the sports industry works. Unfavorable contracts and harsh treatment are used to take advantage of the athlete. Holding agencies accountable and ensuring compliance could prove difficult, too. Marc noted the connection between the presentation and the new law where high school students can go into college and make money playing sports. District Attorney West and Chair Brewer commented on this new trend and thanked Drake.

10:59 AM – Announcement

Maggie Brewer

Judge Hill shared the news of her retirement, effective January 1. Commissioners chimed in to thank her.

11:03 AM – Public Comment

Maggie Brewer

Commission Chair Brewer opened the floor for public comment. Lauren Amato read some comments from the cha. Pam Strickland with NC Stop Human Trafficking announced upcoming webinars and noted the series already available on their website. She made a comment about NCCAHT's next meeting on Jan 24.

11:09 AM – Adjournment**Maggie Brewer**

Marc Nichols moved to adjourn the meeting. Commission Chair Brewer adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is Thursday, February 27th, 2025.