



NC Human Trafficking Commission: Legislative Committee Meeting
September 24, 2020
WebEx through the NC Judicial Center

10:00am Welcome & Introductions

Committee Chair, Caitlin Brooks

Committee Chair Caitlin Brooks opened the meeting and conducted a verbal roll call to document attendance. Committee members in attendance at the meeting were Daniel Bowes, Caitlin Brooks, Sarah Byrne, Tarrah Callahan, Danielle Carman, Jennifer Haigwood, Tammy Harris, Jasmine McGhee, Angelica Wind and Eric Zogry. Also in attendance were Commission Staff, Christine Long, and Commission interns Madelyne Huibregtse and Sarah Odeh.

Approval of Minutes: 8.10.2020

Committee Chair, Caitlin Brooks

No amendments to the minutes were requested and the minutes passed unanimously.

Potential Legislative Items

Sarah Byrne & other Committee Members

Committee Chair Brooks reminded the committee that she would like the committee to iron out details for two to three policy items for a mini bill that would be drafted. The mini bill would also include a request for the HTC to receive recurring funding.

Committee member Sarah Byrne brought forth a list of seven items collected from the Charlotte Mecklenburg Human Trafficking Task Force for discussion. Items listed were:

1. Amend N.C.G.S. 14-43.13 or create new statute to accomplish statutory goal of criminalizing buyer conduct.
2. Create exception for process of placing runaway minor from another state in DPS, rather than CPS. I am still trying to determine where that can be remedied statutorily.
3. Regulation of HT service providers/mandatory compliance with new service provider standards.
4. Statutory address of continued presence practices by law enforcement (see Caitlin Ryland proposed resolution).
5. Increased access to post-conviction relief by modifying the HT-specific relief statutes to no longer require victim testimony.
6. Expand eligible offenses for expunction and vacatur to violence offenses specially including human trafficking offenses.
7. Address confidentiality restrictions that allow for perpetrators to seek custody without court access to DSS files.

Commissioners McGhee and Wind will discuss number one listed above and bring back recommendations to the Committee. Christine Long will look up potential information about number

two from Shared Hope conversations and bring those notes back to the committee. Christine Long reported that the Commission staff could not reasonably enforce item three without funding. This item would need to be tabled until recurring funding is established. Numbers six and seven were not discussed and will be carried over to the next meeting.

Follow-up with Loophole

Committee Chair, Caitlin Brooks & Danielle Carman

Committee Chair Brooks discussed a potential loophole brought to the committee regarding custody and stated she would like to move forward with it. A discussion about whether the draft language should include most common offenses or referencing all related offenses occurred. Commission Staff and Committee Chair Brooks will look at the AOC arrest data and recirculate the one-pager for use in making the decision.

Committee Chair Brooks also brought up a recent report about child marriages in NC and Christine Long will send report information to the committee members. If no other entity is taking this issue up with the legislature, then these changes will be considered at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Committee Chair Brooks

Committee Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:00am. The Human Trafficking Commission staff will send out the next meeting announcement details at a later date.