

NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2018 from 10 am – 1 pm
North Carolina Judicial Branch
901 Corporate Center Drive, Raleigh, NC

Commission Members Present:

Libby Coles, JusticeMatters, Inc.
Jennifer Haigwood, NC Department of Labor
Jasmine McGhee, NC Department of Justice
Pamela Cashwell, NC Department of Public Safety
Suzanne Mauney Smith, Gaston County Police
William “Billy” West, Cumberland County District Attorney
Caitlin Ryland, Legal Aid of North Carolina
Monika Johnston-Hostler, NC Coalition against Sexual Assault
William M. Nichols, Ret. Major NC Highway Patrol
Judge Thomas Jarrell, NC Association of District Court Judges
Judge Claire V. Hill, North Carolina Conference of Superior Court Judges
Ryan S. Boyce, NC Administrative Office of the Courts

Commission Members Not Present:

Dianne Layden, Public at Large
Sarah Tellis, True Justice International

Commission Staff Present:

Christine S. Long, Executive Director

Members of the Public Present:

Ruthann Kirby	Tammy Harris
Elizabeth Hunter	Victoria Plybon
Kory Williford	John Madler
Tara Minter	Elizabeth Robinson
Michelle Scott	Stephanie Nesbitt
Niki Miller	LeQuandra Ballen
Angel Gray	Rick Hudson
Trever Allen	Christy Croft
Elizabeth Overman	Danica Coleman
Dare Spicer	Carl Wall
Ashley Burke	Mark Blackwell
Lori Vaccaro	Zack Anstett
Heather Cox	Adriana Sanchez
Whitney Ludlow	John Barra

Amber Lueken Barwick
P.C. Witt
Alan Melvin
Jennifer Robinson
Melinda Sampson

Nicole Bernard
Erin Conner
Dianne Kemppainen-Ziacsik
Lori Fuller
Charlene Reiss

Call to Order:

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 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.

Welcome and Introductions:

The Chair asked members of the Commission and members of the public to introduce themselves.

Swearing-In New Members:

Justice Barbara Jackson completed the swearing in of Judge Thomas Jarrell, Judge Claire V. Hill, and Ryan S. Boyce.

NC AOC Remarks:

Commissioner Boyce gave brief remarks, welcoming the HTC to the NC AOC.

Approval of the Minutes: 6/21/18 meeting:

- A motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2018 meeting was made, seconded, and passed with no amendments.

Spotlight on Regional Response: Mecklenburg County Project NO REST:

Shawna Pagano, Pat's Place Child Advocacy Center

Ms. Pagano reported on collaborative efforts in Mecklenburg County and data from their pilot site with UNC-CH's Project NO REST. (See PowerPoint presentation titled "Anti-Trafficking Efforts and Updates from Mecklenburg County".)

NC HTC Chair Report:

Libby Magee Coles

Chair Coles welcomed the new members and communicated that this new season is one of tremendous opportunity and tremendous responsibility for the HTC as it leads efforts to combat human trafficking in North Carolina. Chair Coles has asked Director Long to report on the HTC's accomplishments at an upcoming HTC meeting.

Chair Coles communicated that she and Director Long will be presenting with Deputy Director Wooten of the NC AOC at a national labor trafficking conference in KY on the tentative date for the HTC meeting in October. Director Long will communicate with Commissioners to schedule and publicly notice the next HTC meeting.

Chair Coles provided an update on the HTC's transition from NC DOJ to NC AOC per the NCGA. The transition was effective July 1, 2018.

- Chair Coles thanked Attorney General Stein, Commissioner McGhee, and NC DOJ for housing and supporting the HTC since its creation. Chair Coles thanked for the Director Warren, Commissioner Boyce, and the entire NC AOC for their welcome and support.
- Christine Long began her position as Executive Director for the HTC at NC AOC on August 1, 2018. The Commission had no staff during July, as Christine worked for the NC DOJ on NC DOJ business during that month.
- Chair Coles and Commissioner McGhee have been working to facilitate a smooth transfer of the HTC's funds, material records, and equipment/supplies purchased under the HTC's grants from GCC. The HTC has requested and DOJ has agreed to transfer the above, but a number of items remain outstanding. DOJ has requested a list of outstanding items but Chair Coles does not believe the HTC can provide a complete list as numerous DOJ staff were involved in supporting the HTC, preparing documents and sending emails that could be considered material HTC records about which the HTC might not be aware. Chair Coles recommended that the HTC form a committee to wrap up the transition. No motion to form a committee was made. Chair Coles communicated that an update will be provided at the next HTC meeting.

Chair Coles expressed the HTC's gratitude that Director Long is now serving as the HTC's Executive Director and looks forward to working with her in this new capacity.

Staff Report and Action Item:

Christine S. Long

Director Long presented a review of the commission's statutory charge, their process over the previous few years and the commitments and initiatives launched or being explored. (See PowerPoint presentation titled "Human Trafficking Commission Status and Opportunities".)

Director Long reviewed the current commission budget with NC AOC. A motion was made to approve and adopt the budget, seconded, and passed.

Break

The meeting was called back to order by Ms. Coles.

Committee Reports and Action Items:

Committee on Policy and Legislation: Jennifer Haigwood

Committee Chair Haigwood is working to grow the committee and will be sending invitations to members. The committee is accepting legislative recommendations for consideration and would like to facilitate a vote on the HTC's legislative agenda for the upcoming session at the HTC's December meeting. Commissioner Boyce reminds the commission of the study assigned by the NCGA and that the HTC will need to issue a full report by 2/1/19. He also recommends soliciting input from stakeholders.

Committee on Public Health: Sarah Tellis

On Committee Chair Tellis' behalf, Chair Coles communicated that Ms. Tellis will be sending invitations for the committee and focusing on the recommendations from the NC DHHS study as the first goal.

Committee on Public Safety: Marc Nichols

Committee Chair Nichols listed those who have agreed to serve on the committee. The committee will hold its first meeting in September and will be tackling human trafficking from various angles. Chair Nichols shared several opportunities before the committee, including working with the Fusion Center to address data, developing training specific to Highway Patrol Troopers, and developing prison systems initiatives.

Ad Hoc Committee on Standards: Monika Johnson Hostler

No report.

Ad Hoc Committee on Appropriations:

Chair Coles announced that no Commissioners volunteered to serve on the committee but the Chairs of each Committee already formed – Commissioners Johnson-Hostler, Tellis, Nichols, and Haigwood – and the NC AOC representative, Ryan Boyce, have agreed to serve on the Committee. Director Long is working to schedule the first meeting, and Chair Coles hopes for an aggressive schedule for application solicitation and consideration so that the HTC can vote on distribution at the December meeting and get the appropriation dollars to the field where they are needed.

NC DHHS Update:

Erin Conner

(See PowerPoint presentation titled "Human Trafficking Child Welfare Policy Updates".)

Ms. Conner reviewed changes in NC DHHS Child Welfare policy, such as corrections to the parent or caretaker loop hole. Agencies now have authority to screen in cases where the potential abuser is not a caretaker and they can access reports of potential human trafficking cases regardless of parental / guardian knowledge of trafficking. This does not apply to other child welfare reports. She discussed the state's Multiple

Response System, which includes the investigative assessment response now being the required response to human trafficking cases. She also discussed maltreatment screening tool changes, additions to the intake process, new requirements with safety assessments and immediate safety issues that a worker needs to consider with assessing and providing services. In the future NC DHHS hopes to add more protocols and guidance as they learn how these changes take effect. The implementation timeline is noted on the slide with an effective date of 10/1/18. Internal webinars in September will take place to educate child welfare workers on these changes and provide guidance. This will be available for workers to watch as a recording through their website.

Public Comment:

Patricia Witt, NCCAHT, invites people to some local initiatives.

Caitlin Ryland announces that LANC will be sending out a training that they will be offering at Legal Aid of NC. They also do benefits work at Legal Aid if agencies need help in that area. The training will be recorded and available for public.

On Eagles Wings inquires about resources for children that have criminal charges that stemmed from human trafficking.

Wrap-Up and Next Steps:

No further business.

Adjournment

At 12:46pm the meeting was adjourned by Chair Coles. The next meeting will be held on a date TBD by Director Long in consultation with members, and formally noticed.