



NC Human Trafficking Commission: General Meeting
Thursday, April 23, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
WebEx through the NC Judicial Center / Cypress Room C1-1225

10:02 AM – Swear in new Commissioner:

Judge Amanda Wilson, Commissioner

Stephanie Tyson

Judge Amanda Wilson swore in new Commissioner, Stephanie Tyson.

10:07 AM – Call to Order & Ethics Statement

Caroline Valand, Chair

Chair Valand opened the meeting and called to order. She then read the required Ethics Statement.

10:09 AM – Roll Call Attendance & Approval of the Minutes: 2/26/2026

Caroline Valand, Chair

Chair Valand had Lauren Amato conduct a roll call to document attendance. Commissioners in attendance at the meeting were Chris Bullard on behalf of Luke Farley, Dean Duncan on behalf of Dawn Ferrer, Simone Gilchrist, Deana Joy, Dr. Corinna Myers, Marc Nichols, Jordan Reese, Judge Stephanie Reese (joined 10:17am), Lillie Rhodes, Caitlin Ryland, Stephanie Tyson, Caroline Valand, DA Billy West (left 11:53am), and Judge Amanda Wilson (left 11:22am). Also in attendance were Commission Executive Director, Christine Long, and staff. Members of the public were also able to view or listen to the meeting via WebEx.

Chair Valand asked if there were any edits to the minutes from the last meeting on February 26th, 2026. No changes were noted. Marc made the motion to approve, and Dean seconded the motion. The February 26th meeting minutes passed unanimously.

10:18 AM – Chair Report

Caroline Valand, Chair

Chair Valand began the chair report. She started a discussion amongst the commissioners to gauge what we are interested in concentrating on as a commission. It was decided to have an in-person commission-planning meeting in Raleigh for the next meeting; the date is to be determined. A survey will be sent out to narrow down feedback and help focus on what direction we want to go in the meeting. A needs assessment like the one proposed by Engage Together in the last meeting could help direct where any gaps are and would be helpful in data collection.

10:37 AM – Atrium Health

Dr. Stacy Reynolds, Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine & Chief of Pediatric Emergency Medicine

Chair Valand introduced Dr. Stacy Reynolds to present on the Atrium Health Human Trafficking Advocacy Team. Dr. Reynolds began by talking about the evolution of the program. She outlined the trajectory of Atrium Health's Human Trafficking Advocacy Team since 2019, growing from a single-facility pilot into the multi-hospital Code Hope program and expanding to an enterprise-wide model across Advocate Health. Dr. Reynolds explained the Clinical electronic health record integration, highlighting the implementation of an

Epic-embedded Human Trafficking Navigator, featuring a 4-step workflow, an objective indicator assessment tool, best-practice alerts, and secure documentation that does not cross over to the patient portal. Lastly, Dr. Reynolds announced the second annual Anti-Trafficking Healthcare Symposium scheduled for September 8, 2026, at The Pearl in Charlotte with a live web broadcast.

11:01 AM – One More Child

Parker Barnes, Anti-Trafficking Coordinator

Chair Valand introduced Parker Barnes, Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, to present on the organization One More Child. Parker began by talking about their service model. She went into detail on their free, mobile, 24/7 anti-trafficking services across seven Triangle-area North Carolina counties. She then went on to talk about their direct services, emphasizing a low-barrier, empowerment-based model providing comprehensive case management, trauma-focused clinical mental health services, psychoeducation for family support systems, legal/courtroom accompaniment, and internet safety trainings.

11:13 AM – Legal Aid

Caitlin Ryland, Managing Attorney – Farmworker Unit

Chair Valand introduced Commissioner Caitlin Ryland, Managing Attorney of the Farmworker Unit of Legal Aid of NC, to present on Legal Aid trends. Caitlin began by talking about their civil legal services and summarized direct civil relief offered to survivors, such as reporting assistance, victim compensation, record expunctions, protective orders, eviction defense, and immigration remedies. Over the last few years, Legal Aid has experienced significant funding and structural challenges including severe civil legal funding constraints, the expiration of certain public benefits for foreign national survivors, a rise in labor trafficking schemes, skyrocketing T visa backlogs (projected wait times up to 16–17 years) and the termination of programs like DALE or Deferred Action for Law Enforcement.

11:39 AM – Charlotte Metro HT Task Force

Hannah Arrowood, Board Chair

Chair Valand introduced Hannah Arrowood, Board Chair of the Charlotte Metro Human Trafficking Task Force. Hannah detailed the task force's transition into an independent 501(c)(3) operating under a community-based, board-led structure without paid executive staff, prioritizing direct resourcing for its active member agencies. She then outlined strategic pillars through 2030 (regional connector, unified external voice, vetted agency standards, legislative data review, and financial sustainability). Lastly, Hannah shared findings from their 2025 data report, noting 63 identified minor victims in the region (94% female; 48% aged 15 or younger).

11:55 AM – General Staff Report

Christine Long

Executive Director Christine Long began the report by providing updates on past training conducted as well as upcoming training courses and events. Christine acknowledged commissioner collaboration on Survivor Network vetting procedures and upcoming judicial training modules for the District Court Judges Conference. Christine shared local, regional, and national changes relevant to our efforts including updates on various meetings and projects underway.

11:58 AM – Public Comment

Caroline Valand, Chair

Chair Valand opened the floor for public comments. There was one comment.

12:00 PM – Adjournment

Caroline Valand, Chair

Chair Valand adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is on Thursday, June 17th, 2026.