

NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2019, 10:00am-1:00pm
North Carolina Judicial Center
901 Corporate Center Drive, Raleigh NC, 27607

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
Caitlin Ryland, Legal Aid of North Carolina
William M. Nichols, Ret. Major NC Highway Patrol
Judge Claire V. Hill, North Carolina Conference of Superior Court Judges
Ryan S. Boyce, NC Administrative Office of the Courts
Thomas Bernard, Physician Wake Medical
Dianne Layden, Public at Large (by phone)
Angelica Wind, NC Coalition Against Human Trafficking (by phone)

Commission Members Not Present:

Judge Sherri W. Elliott, NC Association of District Court Judges
William "Billy" West, Cumberland County District Attorney
Suzanne Mauney Smith, Gaston County Police
Monika Johnson-Hostler, NC Coalition against Sexual Assault

Commission Staff Not Present:

Christine S. Long, Executive Director

Members of the Public Present:

Please see public sign-in sheet.

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 (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.

Welcome and Introductions:

Chair Coles asked members of the Commission present and on call to introduce themselves.

Approval of the Minutes: April 25, 2019 and May 17, 2019 meetings:

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2019 and May 17, 2019 meeting was made, seconded, and passed with no amendments.

NC HTC Chair Report and Action Items:

Chair Coles gave an update on the budget for the Commission. An unrestricted budget of \$227,000 has been approved for the fiscal year 2019-2020, with \$250,000 recurring for subsequent fiscal years.

A bill creating eight anti-trafficking-specific positions within the NC State Bureau of Investigations will hopefully pass and be signed into law.

Chair Coles summarized a report provided by Director Long. The report states Director Long is working with the AOC to request extension of funds remaining in the Commission's budget at the fiscal year's end. She is optimistic the request will be approved.

The Director's report also informed the Commission of grant updates related to the Governor's Crime Commission. Director Long continues communication with and has met with most grantees that received HTC funds through the appropriation.

Chair Coles proposed formalizing Commission meeting processes, as membership and matters of business have increased. She requested feedback from Commission members to effectively steward everyone's time and ensure all voices are heard.

Awareness Poster (Vote):

Chair Coles invited Elizabeth Robinson of the NC Retail Merchants Association (RMA) to speak on behalf of the RMA regarding proposed anti-trafficking posters. Ms. Robinson also spoke briefly about the NC Retail Crime Alliance's upcoming October conference with law enforcement and retail loss prevention officers in attendance. She suggested this conference as an opportunity to partner with the Commission to conduct a breakout session.

Chair Coles presented posters designed by the RMA and the AOC to be discussed and voted upon. Three AOC posters and four RMA posters (two designs each available in two colors) were presented for discussion, feedback, and a vote.

The Commission narrowed options to two AOC design #2 and the RMA image-free design in yellow. A roll call vote was taken of members present and the AOC design was selected by a vote of 6-2, subject to inclusion of the following edits:

- Removing “HT is a crime,” to prevent deterring people from calling who do not believe they are victims of a crime or who are undocumented
- Removing “to help others”
- Pulling the hotline website out from the “block” it is in and centering it underneath that section.
- Removing the underline from the title
- Making the middle language on the poster bigger and more prominent
- Changing large font at the top of the poster to yellow

Presentation: UNC-CH Schools of Social Work and Public Health Overview of the Teach2Reach Program and Protocol:

Dr. Cindy Fraga Rizzo presented an overview of the Teach2Reach program for educating students about sex trafficking in schools. Her presentation included an overview of the program’s goals, structure, protocol, and ongoing and next steps. She shared her findings from surveys of school principals about the preparedness of schools to respond to sex trafficking and educate students.

Presentation: Town of Apex, Human Trafficking Resolution and Initiatives:

Mayor Lance Olive of the Town of Apex presented his work at the municipal level in addressing human trafficking. He recommended the combination of grass roots efforts at the local government level to address multi-faceted issues of anti-trafficking work, in tandem with top-down federal and state governmental efforts. Mayor Olive shared his takeaways from an anti-trafficking program he attended in Houston, which he has implemented in Apex.

Presentation: UNC-CH SOG Local Government Initiatives and Training:

Margaret Henderson presented updates on the local government trainings she conducts through the UNC School of Government. She shared her program’s goal of training local business and municipal employees who may witness human trafficking on the ground. She shared a report of suggestions for local government elected officials, first steps for local governments to take, and additional resources.

Committee Reports and Action Items:

Legislative Working Group: Committee Chair Jennifer Haigwood updated the Commission on the budget conference report, which was released on June 25, 2019. Special provisions of the budget are also included in HB198 and SB200. HB198 was in the Senate Rules Committee on June 27, 2019. HB37, on changes to reporting of child sex abuse, was amended to include a requirement for training K-12 school personnel on

sex trafficking and child sex abuse. The bill passed the House last week and is currently in the Senate Rules Committee.

Ad Hoc Committee on Appropriations: With a quorum present, Committee Chair Jennifer Haigwood brought a vote on whether to approve a 6-month extension of the Center for Human Trafficking Court Solutions grant. This grantee has reported that the County Manager approved creation and posting of a coordinator position, to interview and select a candidate before August 5th, 2019. The 6-month extension would allow the position to last an entire year.

Committee Chair Haigwood recommended approving the extension. The motion to extend the grant period through June 30th was made, seconded, and passed. The Commission made the decision to consider other grant requests on a case-by-case basis.

Committee on Public Safety: Committee Chair Marc Nichols stated that the committee is preparing a trafficking awareness/training video to share across NC. DMVs have agreed to share the video in preliminary testing for new drivers only. NC is awaiting assistance from the Texas State Highway Patrol DPS, but several states are ahead. Committee Chair Nichols is researching if the process can be expedited. Committee Chair Nichols updated the Commission on the increase in radio/PSA communications at airports to mirror Atlanta's efforts to prevent trafficking.

Committee on Public Health: Committee Chair Thomas Bernard updated the Commission on the committee's June 17, 2019 subcommittee meeting to develop committee goals. The subcommittee evaluated the February 2018 feasibility study to identify what comprises success and how to validate best practices. The committee plans to get a major stakeholder on board in the Charlotte hospital system to start screening and training in the hospitals. Chair Coles has been in communication with Walker Wilson, the Assistant Secretary for Policy at DHHS, to secure DHHS engagement.

Adjournment

At 12:46pm the meeting was adjourned by Chair Coles. The next meeting will be held on August 29, 2019 from 10am to 1pm at the NC Judicial Center on Corporate Center Drive in Raleigh.