

**NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION Meeting Minutes**  
**October 24, 2019, 10:00am-1:00pm**  
**NC Judicial Center**  
**901 Corporate Center Drive, Raleigh NC, 27607**

**Commission Members Present:**

Libby Coles, JusticeMatters, Inc.  
Danielle Carman, NC Administrative Offices of the Courts (non-participating)  
Pamela Cashwell, NC Department of Public Safety  
Caitlin Ryland, Legal Aid of North Carolina  
William West, Cumberland County District Attorney  
William M. Nichols, Ret. Major NC Highway Patrol  
Jennifer Haigwood, NC Department of Labor  
Suzanne Mauney Smith, Gaston County Police (by phone)  
Caitlin Brooks, Public at Large  
Thomas Bernard- Physician and Medical Director WakeMed North  
Angelica Wind, NC Coalition Against Human Trafficking (by phone)  
Jasmine McGhee, NC Department of Justice (by phone)

**Commission Members Not Present:**

Judge Claire V. Hill, North Carolina Conference of Superior Court Judges  
Judge Sherri W. Elliott, NC Association of District Court Judges  
Monika Johnson-Hostler, NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault

**Commission Staff 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 via call to introduce themselves. Chair Coles introduced the newest members of the Commission who will be sworn in today.

### **Approval of the Minutes - August 29, 2019 meeting:**

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2019 meeting was made, seconded, and passed with one amendment. Executive Director will implement the amendment of the correct spelling for Commissioner Caitlin Ryland's name.

### **Swearing in of new members:**

Judge Mangum conducted the swearing in of Deputy Director Danielle Carman and Caitlin Brooks.

### **NC HTC Chair Report and Action Items:**

Chair Coles reported that budget has made no movement and is stalled, and that NC AOC has communicated it will keep the Executive Director position until the end of the current fiscal year. Chair Coles opened the floor for discussion regarding the benefits and risks of requesting a mini-bill to be passed by the General Assembly. The Commission consensus was to hold off on this. Commissioners were asked to reach out to the Chair if anyone has further ideas or thoughts, but no mini bill will be requested at this time.

### **Report on National Illicit Massage Business Roundtable in D.C.: Charlene Reiss, Durham Crisis Response Center**

Charlene Reiss with Durham Crisis Response Center summarized material learned at the first National Roundtable on the Illicit Massage Industry. Ms. Reiss reported the two-day gathering contained data sharing from multiple states and information, but no solutions. Sponsors for the gathering were Polaris, Global Emancipation Project, Restore NYC, and others. The roundtable had breakout sessions on law enforcement, code enforcement, data and measurement, and collaborative approaches or civic engagement.

### **Staff Report:**

Ms. Christine Long issued general updates regarding Commissioner Ethics Education course, SEI forms and seat appointment letters. In addition, Ms. Long informed the Commission that it was Fair Trade month, updated Commissioners about training conducted, and reminded the members that January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Ms. Long noted since the last meeting there have been two new national convenings that NC was invited to attend. The first was a roundtable

on prevention hosted by the Office of Trafficking In Persons (OTIP) and the McCain Institute. This first national prevention discussion emerged from the passage of the Fredrick Douglas Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Act this year. The law has opened the door for authorizing prevention grants and OTIP welcomes states to submit a statement confirming its commitment to prevention for inclusion in OTIP's Federal Prevention Action Plan. OTIP is also evaluating prevention programs with plans to issue both the Action Plan and Prevention Evaluation Reports in January.

Director Long recommended that NC submit a statement to OTIP and presented three draft options. The Commission reviewed three possible sentences and agreed a combined version would be finalized with assistance from Commissioners and then submitted the following day for the Action Plan.

Director Long communicated that many states have adopted a Public Health approach, and that she is gathering information for the Commission to consider taking that approach. Chair Coles requested that this be brought before the Public Health Committee for consideration and recommendation to the Commission as well.

The second convening was the Shared Hope International Conference roundtable on child sexual exploitation. Ms. Long will be compiling notes from this roundtable to consider potential action items for future Commission meetings.

Ms. Long displayed the printed awareness poster in different sizes and discussed next steps. The Director will upload poster links to the website, begin looking at translation services, examine the possibility of getting the new poster to replace old versions at mandated locations, and will then research how best to use the existing appropriation.

Chair Coles requested an update on the amount of appropriation that might remain after fulfilling the statutory mandate for the appropriation and the deadline for spending it. Director Long estimates there will be close to \$50,000 remaining, which must be spent by June 30, 2020. Chair Coles asked that Director Long bring a proposal for utilizing the funding to the Commission for vote at the December 12 meeting. Commissioners that have ideas for the remaining appropriation should submit them to the Director by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Lastly, the Director reports that she has received an invitation to testify in a field hearing for the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security. The hearing is Monday and written testimony is due 48-hours in advance. Ranking Member Congressman Mark Walker will be hosting the hearing in Greensboro and Ms. Long has been asked to speak to the role of the HTC, successful partnerships or initiatives, as well as a few top challenges in NC. Chair Coles led the Commission in a discussion of what the Commission would like to communicate through this testimony at the hearing. Director Long will circulate the draft testimony for review and comment by Commissioners prior to submitting to Congressman Walker's office.

**Presentation: Nikki Locklear, NC Commission on Indian Affairs**

Program Director, Nikki Locklear gave a presentation about the NC Commission on Indian Affairs and landscape of tribes in NC. The presentation discussed the issues facing American Indian women, such as missing and murdered indigenous women, domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. Ms. Locklear and Director Long are exploring partnership ideas, such as a workshop at the Spring Tribal Leadership Summit.

### **Presentation: Donna Miller, Esther House of Stanley County**

Ms. Donna Miller is the Executive Director for Ester House of Stanley County. The agency serves victim-survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. Ms. Miller's presentation consisted of both successes and challenges faced in their three county service area in regards to human trafficking.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Legislative Committee:** Committee Chair Haigwood stated there were no new updates for this committee. Commissioner Haigwood reports that the committee will regroup after the New Year to focus on securing recurring funding in the next budget.

**Public Safety Committee:** Committee Chair Nichols reports the Committee is looking for new ways to move forward ideas since there is no funding for the HTC. Commissioner Nichols will be bringing together a small working group to discuss how to utilize state and county opportunities that are already available.

**Public Health Committee:** Committee Chair Bernard reports the Committee met for the second time this month and had various organizations represented. Presentations included Atrium Health, WakeMed, SOAR and information about HEAL efforts to evaluate health care curriculum. Commissioner Bernard stated the Committee decided to combine recommendations one and four for efficiency of the process. The Committee also noted some additional health care entities that should be added to the recommendations. The next meeting will have updates regarding how other states have addressed training for health care systems and entities.

**Ad Hoc Committee on Standards:** no update provided.

**Ad Hoc Appropriations Committee:** Committee Chair Haigwood reports there is no further activity for this Committee.

### **Adjournment**

At 12:55 pm the meeting was adjourned by Chair Coles. The next meeting will be held on December 12, 2019 from 10am to 1pm at the NC Judicial Center on Corporate Center Drive in Raleigh.