



HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEETING MINUTES

December 11, 2020 | 9-11 AM

1. Welcome and Introduction by HTI – Jennifer Rausch, Jomel Aird and Emily Billman

2. Advisory Council Updates

- a. Jomel Aird asked the subcommittee chairs to put together a summary document including:
 - i. The overall goals of the subcommittee
 - ii. The projects the subcommittee is currently working on
 - iii. The specific areas the Advisory Council can assist

3. Subcommittee End of Year Updates – Group

a. Demand Reduction Subcommittee – Tony Talbott

- i. The subcommittee is currently preparing two 90-minute webinar trainings on Demand Reduction. There will be a Part 1 and Part 2. The first will introduce the concept of demand reduction. The second will cover state & local level policies to promote demand reduction. The webinars will happen within the Spring, hopefully March. They would like the webinar to be interactive in order to keep attendees engaged. They have been developing a full resource list and building on the previous work of the DR committee. The committee has 11 members and 3 of the members are men. They are trying to increase male involvement on the committee. They are looking to build those relationships and build primary preventions efforts. Terri Foltz stated the committee is proud of the webinars and the content it will be containing.

b. Research/Data & Gap Analysis Subcommittee – Christi Bartman

- i. Within the next 6 months they will be producing a report full of their research recommendations for the AG and Commission.

c. Public Awareness Subcommittee – Bhumika Patel, Amy LaGesse

- i. They are completing a Human Trafficking Public Awareness checklist guide. They are implementing aspects that will guide organizations to

avoid sensationalized imagery. They are also including what national organizations are reliable. They are coming up with a quick reference guide for the coalitions. They created a survey and received feedback from the coalitions on what guidance they need and had a conference call with the coalitions to go over their feedback.

d. Victim Service Subcommittee – Michelle Hannan, Kelli Carey

- i. Michelle Hannan stated they are finalizing the update on the human trafficking service standards. The service standards subcommittee has been meeting every two weeks and working through the most recent version of the standards, making changes, adding content and bringing things up to speed. They made it through the whole revision at their last meeting. They will bring it to the HTI team for a final review before presenting to the General Commission members. This will happen in January.
- ii. Kelli Carey stated the service matrix subcommittee has been meeting bi-weekly to go over the flow of the statewide service matrix and what it would look like. They are also looking at the data collecting for each service standard category. They did an initial survey. At the end of January, they will send out an official self-assessment to organizations working with the service standards. They will work to train these organizations if they want to be on the service matrix. The service matrix will live on an AG website and they are meeting with the project manager at the AG office in January. Data entry and collection will be a foundation of this project. Michelle and Kelli believe this will be a 9-month project or more.
- iii. The Victims Service subcommittee will focus on labor trafficking during the New year. This effort will be led by Samantha Salamon.

e. Health Care Subcommittee – Ruth Downing

- i. Working with the research committee on an excel sheet that compiles data collected by hospitals.
- ii. They are looking into starting a pilot project that includes gathering data from a small, medium and large hospital. They will have to overcome working with big hospitals on their HIPAA policies in order to receive the data and information they need. The pilot will reveal the issues they know are present in the healthcare systems and they can take their results to show the gaps.

- iii. They are also working with the AG's office to produce one off videos for different healthcare settings. Ruth reiterated that it's not what you ask, but it's how you ask it. Healthcare professionals do not understand this. They decided they can show trafficking situations in short vignettes in different healthcare settings. They have a meeting with the HTI team and the AG Communications team after Summit. They are working to narrow down the video scenarios. They will have Stephanie and Annette advising them. They have 23 members and 2 advisors.

f. Law Enforcement Subcommittee – Det. Aaron Dennis

- i. Ruth did a strangulation training with the Columbus HT Task Force.
- ii. Operation Autumn Hope – statewide sting in October, largest coordinated sting to target all facets of HT in Ohio. They replicated it like the FBI yearly sting. All of OOCIC task forces and 50 other agencies participated. They added the US Marshall this time and now have the ability to partner with them on Missing Children cases. They will continue to develop and build relationships with the US Marshall. They continue to take tips from social service agencies, foster-care organizations etc. There were 109 victims, 177 arrests during operation Autumn Hope.
- iii. January and February all task force members will start their Forensic Experiential Trauma Interviewing (FETI) training.
- iv. They are working with Ohio Health on a project here in Columbus and plan to connect Ruth and the healthcare subcommittee with the project.
- v. They are now working with the Franklin County Sheriff's office, HSI and the Adult Parole Authority. The Adult Parole Authority poses a unique opportunity to target the traffickers that have lengthy records.
- vi. They are noticing Airbnb's are a vulnerable spot that traffickers are using. They are looking into how they can train personnel who run Airbnb's since they are individually run. They are privately owned apartments or homes and do not have training.

g. Legal & Legislative Subcommittee – Samantha Salamon, Senator Fedor

- i. Samantha Salamon described their focus is not only on proposed or enacted legislation, but how legislation is implemented.
- ii. Their subcommittee has a strong diversity of members coming from different areas and levels of expertise including: senators, representatives, law enforcement and social service providers. This provides for great

conversations and perspectives. They have had a new person added every meeting.

- iii. They have been reviewing old laws that need amended, specifically expungement for HT survivors. Their review includes looking at the laws that hinder survivors receiving the services they need.
- iv. Magistrate Blair is working on the Safe Harbor Law and how it can be better implemented in several jurisdictions because there is a lack of understanding. This also includes a lack of understand from Guardian Ad Litem and criminal defense attorneys. They are working to decide who needs trained.
- v. They have also sent advocacy letters for SB 13.
- vi. Chelsea Golterman, the senior legislative aide for Senator Fedor updated the commission on the progress of HB 431 and SB 13.

4. General HTI updates – Jennifer Rausch, Jomel Aird, Emily Billman

a. Request

- i. Jen Rausch asked the Commission to make sure they are connecting with the HTI team when they have new projects and ideas, before they are sent outside of the Attorney General's Office.

b. Legislative Updates

- i. HB 415 will not be making it through the lame duck session. Chelsea Golterman covered the status of HB 431 and SB 13. They are not sure which one will pass first. Either one may be voted through during the lame duck session.

c. Human Trafficking Summit Registration Live

- i. Jomel Aird let the group know that the Human Trafficking Summit registration is live and asked Commission members to spread it through their networks. The HTI team wants to continue an ongoing conversation about trafficking past the month of January so they are planning to have webinars throughout the year. You can register at this link:

<https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Human-Trafficking-Summit>

d. Survivor Fund

- i. There will be a survivor fund created out of the fees received from the 2021 Human Trafficking Summit. The details will be worked out after the

Summit based on the amount of funds we receive. If there is a surplus after our survivors have been compensated, the Commission will determine where it will be donated.

e. HTI general updates

- i. OHLEG – still updating the module. They are adding other crimes on the module to capture the whole picture of HT through the law enforcement lens.
- ii. The HTI team continues to train different organizations in the state including the City of Dublin for a 2- part series. They are also training employees from Syntero.

5. Upcoming Trainings and Developments – Group

- a. **Bill Cranston, Mahoning Valley Task Force** – The Task Force worked with Liberty Township and targeted johns at hotels where they have seen victims come from. They arrested 14 men. They got a lot of good feedback and made national news because they caught an MLB umpire.
- b. **Michelle Hannan, Salvation Army Columbus** – They received an HHS Grant. The grant will allow the Salvation Army to give out contract work, establish employment work and create focus groups. They will also be seeking specific input from survivors (They will be compensated). Michelle stated their organization will come to the Commission for support and to utilize the Advisory Council with this grant.
- c. **Youngbee Dale, Dale Consulting LLC** – She stated she wants to help Ohio help get trafficker assets into the victim’s fund. She will be training the Minnesota State Police. She wants everyone to know she is available to help in any way. Youngbee has a plethora of knowledge on the criminal enterprise and dark market to help different organizations.
- d. **Erin Meyer, Salvation Army Cincinnati & End Slavery Cincinnati** – Erin announced End Slavery Cincinnati will be hosting their annual conference on January 29th. You can register at this link: <https://give.salvationarmy.org/event/2021-greater-cincinnati-anti-human-trafficking-conference/e305336>. They were awarded a Task Force grant from the DOJ with the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office. They are currently working on how the grant will change things in the community and how the grant will allow them to work with state agencies.
- e. **Samantha Salamon, Asia Ohio** – Samantha wanted to thank Kelli Carey for organizing the Summit County Task Force grant. Samantha is a chair for the

Summit County Coalition Against Human Trafficking and announced they have various trainings going on. She will send a PDF to Emily that contains detailed information on these trainings. The topics include: multi-disciplinary teams, best-practices from a health care perspective, trauma and working with HT survivors, child sex-trafficking and more. They have great people lined up to do these trainings.

- f. **Maria Busch and Veronica Scherbauer, Ohio Department of Public Safety** – They are analyzing the National Human Trafficking Hotline since they know it is not always working for everyone in different areas. They sent a survey out to the coalitions about their feedback. They need data to show where it's not working. Veronica S. – DOJ grant is ending in January. The next iteration of the grant they will help provide funding to juvenile courts to start specialty dockets for juvenile victims of trafficking. They will be partnering with the Supreme Court of Ohio and DYS.
- g. **Ryn Farmer, Crime Victim Services**– Ryn discussed the Crime Victims Fund fix. Their organization had a 40% cut in funding this year. They had to eliminate their Trauma Specialist position and more. One suggestion is to change what funds are being put in the fund. She asked the group to speak with their representatives about the Omnibus appropriations bill. She mentioned to specifically call Senator Portman and Senator Brown to talk about how important this fix would be. If this doesn't happen their programs will continue to see cuts and they will not be able to serve victims in their communities. Here is the draft language for anyone who receives funding from VOCA and wants to call your local representatives about the Omnibus appropriation bill:
<https://endsexualviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Letter-to-Congress-on-VOCA-Deposits-Crisis-in-Omnibus-1.pdf>
- h. **Senator Fedor** – Senator Fedor asked the group to let her know about any legislation suggestions they may have. There is a massage parlor bill going through the statehouse currently. She also said to bring these legislative ideas to the legal and legislative committee. Details for her human trafficking awareness day will come soon.
- i. **Christi Bartman, Eyes Up Appalachia** – Christi wanted to thank everyone for helping Eyes Up Appalachia get off the ground. She is currently working with universities and state partners. She just met with the Ohio University Osteopathic Medical College to connect.