



# HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

## OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

### MEETING MINUTES

December 20, 2022 | 10:00AM-12:00PM

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1. Welcome and Introduction – Linda Majeska Powers
  - i. Attendees introduced themselves, Jomel Spurlock announced new team member to HTI and Linda Majeska Powers introduced herself to the HTC.
2. Jomel Spurlock introduced discussion for the donation to a non-profit from end of year surplus. Advisory Council Ambassadors are compensated through excess funds from the annual Human Trafficking Summit. At the end of the calendar year, and funds remaining after Ambassadors have been compensated for the year is donated to a NGO of the commission's choice.
  - i. HTC was informed total amount in the fund at this time is \$5,762.21. Once the Ambassadors receive payment for December's work, the new total to be donated will be communicated to the HTC. Jomel informed that a survey monkey will be created with a list of agencies across Ohio that work with human trafficking victims and survivors. HTC members will vote from that list.
  - ii. Jomel also informed that OAG office's Charitable section will also review the list of non-profits to inform if they are in good standing.
  - iii. List discussed and noted subject to change: Oasis House (Montgomery), Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program (Southeast Ohio- Meigs, Vinton, Lawrence, Gallia, Perry, Athens, Hocking, Morgan, Jackson), Sanctuary Night (Franklin), Shelter Care (Summit), Us Together (Lucas)
3. Jomel Spurlock discussed for subcommittee chairs to review and update their subcommittee goals if needed for 2023.
  - i. Creation of a subcommittee chair/co-chair agreement in order to have clear expectations and guidance for existing and new chairs was discussed. Document would be created with chair input.
4. Jomel Spurlock discussed time frame for spring Advisory Council nominations as current Ambassador's terms are ending.
  - i. Nominations for new Ambassadors to open tentatively in March 2023 and new team of Ambassadors will onboard in May 2023.
  - ii. Discussed creation of safety plan for Ambassadors.

- iii. Informed of HTI in the process of meeting with each Ambassador to receive input and review changes to come.
5. Advisory Council Ambassadors Updates
- i. There were no updates from Ambassadors
6. Subcommittee Updates
- i. Law Enforcement Subcommittee – Matt Hilbert
    - i. The subcommittee last met at the end of August and has not been able to meet since but will be scheduling a meeting soon.
    - ii. Reviewed 2022 goal of increasing training and operation opportunities and will be creating new goals for 2023
  - ii. Victims Services Subcommittee – Rebekkah O’Bryan
    - i. Primary goals at this time:
      - 1. Opening the standard survey on a quarterly basis. Tentative next survey open date is 1/09 – 2/06.
      - 2. Updating child sex trafficking protocol
  - iii. Demand Reduction – Tony Talbott
    - i. Met nine times this year and discussions about concept of demand reduction, the benefits, misuse of demand reduction, what does demand reduction mean or look like for both sex and labor trafficking, reviewed materials from programs and gave feedback and collecting resources internationally, nationally and locally on demand reduction.
    - ii. The subcommittee has created a six module/slides on demand reduction that can be shared and plugged into any presentation. Final draft will be completed in the next few days.
    - iii. The white paper on demand from the previous administration is currently being updated and will be ready in 2023.
  - iv. Public Awareness – Lara Wilken
    - i. The subcommittee completed their first project, Best Practices HT 101 Training Guide. It had seven peer reviews and include survivor informed review. Victim services subcommittee chair and demand reduction subcommittee chair also peer reviewed.

- ii. Goals for 2023 at this time:
  - 1. Create a best practices HT 101 training guide specific for youth presentations.
  - 2. Create awareness flyer for communities to have that can go into bathrooms with tear offs that will include local number for victims to call for assistance.
  
- v. Research, Data & Gap Analysis – Jennifer Taber and Kirsti Mouncey
  - i. Goal is to continue to promote the recommendations established in the 2019 prevalence study and the 2021/2022 Formal Report on Data Collection Practices and Findings on Human Trafficking in Ohio created by this subcommittee. These recommendations will greatly impact the data being collected.
  
- vi. Legal and Legislative – Samantha Salamon
  - i. Subcommittee is currently reviewing the expungement bill.
  - ii. Working with healthcare subcommittee to see what is needed legislatively to improve healthcare response to trafficking.
  - iii. Next meeting will be in January and will be brainstorming new goals for 2023.
  - iv. Katie Blankemeyer informed bills passed during lame duck.
    - 1. House bill 390 that was passed. House bill 390 adds human trafficking to the list of offenses that law enforcement needs to submit a sexual assault kit if collected.
    - 2. Representative Richardson’s Human Trafficking Awareness Bill was passed, January 11<sup>th</sup> is now Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Ohio.
    - 3. Strangulation Bill – Ruth Downing discussed excitement on bill being passed. It was introduced back in 2015, Ohio is no longer the last state to have a strangulation law. It is a felony charge that is not under the domestic violence statute. Lethality assessment for law enforcement needs to still be added. Next step is continued awareness about this new law.

vii. Healthcare – Heather Wilde

- i. Discussed update with two filmed scenarios for healthcare education (survivor at the hospital for labor and delivery, familial trafficking with minor victim presenting at healthcare facility) and working with the publications department at the OAG. Discussion and pause points being built into the educational video. Debrief guide will also be created. Subcommittee’s goal is to create two more educational videos (labor trafficking and EMS)
- ii. Project for 2023 is to create a safe avenue for victims/survivors to relay to their medical provider that they are not ok or safe.

7. General HTI updates – Jomel Spurlock

- i. Linda is the new Legal Director for HTI
- ii. Update on Human Trafficking Summit, January 26, 2023. Registration is live and filling up. Summit will be 600 in-person and up to 1000 virtual attendees. Scholarships given to 107 attendees. \$10k has been set to pay Ambassadors for 2023 due to higher cost for Summit happening in-person. Sponsorship opportunities are available for companies who want to help sponsor Summit. Ambassador’s will be honored at Summit and thanked for their work.
- iii. Discussed Shared Hope report and update that Shared Hope asked for administrative codes and policies that may exist so that information is known to them even though it does not impact the overall grade at this time.

8. Upcoming Trainings and Developments – Group

- i. Two Days in May – May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>
- ii. Christi Bartman – Final third part on Familial Trafficking training. Alicia Ley and several other survivors speaking on hope and resilience in January
- iii. Christi Bartman – Training for Bridges program coming up in January
- iv. Lara Wilken – Training coming up in Sandusky for Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> for first responders, law enforcement and local government officials. Lara Wilken, Heather Wilde, Harold D’Souza, Annette Mango and Former Senator Fedor will be speaking as well. Criminal justice professor will also present with community resource officer.
- v. Oasis house is hosting 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Southwest Ohio Human Trafficking Conference on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

- vi. Kirsti Mouncey – The Collaborative’s Survivor Council will be doing a four-part web series. Cleveland Terminal Tower will be lighting up blue on January 2<sup>nd</sup> to raise awareness about human trafficking.
  - vii. Heidi Carr – Chassidy Barham will be taking over Heidi’s role at the City Prosecutor’s Office.
  - viii. Tracy Richardson thanked everyone for all the work they do and looking to plan something for January 11<sup>th</sup> in 2024 and see how education for the general assembly can happen in the future.
9. In attendance: Jomel Spurlock, Linda Majeska Powers, Katie Blankemeyer, Michelle Hannan, Kelli Cary, Harold D'Souza, Christi Bartman, Maria Busch, Veronica Scherbauer, Rebekkah O'Bryan, Joella Franzen, Tara Alston, Tony Talbott, Lara Wilken, Rocky Nelson, Representative Tracy Richardson, Annette Mango, Bill Cranston, Crystal Rankin, Kirsti Mouncey, Jennifer Taber, Maggie Kane, Emily Dunlap, Cynthia VanCleve, Jennifer Riley-Himes, Chelsea Gaffey, Heather Wilde, Erin Meyer, Jill Jackson, Kathy Chen, Representative White, Larry Henderhan, Carolyn Bevins, Jill Gorz, Amy Lagesse, Larry McCoy, Matt Hilbert, Viann Barnnet, Ruth Downing, Samantha Salamon, Steve Irwin, Seth Boughton, Ryan Emahiser, Chassidy Barham, Stephanie Rollins, Harold D’Souza, Annette Mango, Lara Wilken, Maria Busch, Veronica Scherbauer, Catie Cleveland, Julia Wike, Chelsea Gaffney, Carol O’Brien, Jean-Philippe Rigaud, Larry McCoy, Celia Williamson, Heidi Carr, Kristina Nicholson, James Chandler