



# HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

## OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

### MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2020

Jennifer Rausch and Jomel Aird introduced themselves and their professional backgrounds. Emily Billman, the new member of the Human Trafficking Initiative team, introduced herself as the Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator and gave her background. The members who were present (both in person and on the phone) introduced themselves to the rest of the group.

At the beginning of the meeting the group recapped the 12/5 meeting briefly and discussed a reimagining for the current Human Trafficking Commission with things that worked for the past HTC, plus new ideas.

The group discussed 2020 goals and overall goals for the HTC. This included reaching other non-traditional audiences.

#### **Overall Goals and Discussion:**

- The Commission will base itself off of the 3-P Paradigm: Protection, Prosecution and Prevention model. This goes for both the Commission and its individual subcommittees.
- The Commission will take a victim-centered approach.
- Training more law enforcement agencies including higher levels of law enforcement as well as prosecutors and judges across the state.
- Continued presence visas (yearly competence)
- Encourage hospitals to put protocols in place to include specialized trainings. This can be done by sending a letter to both CEO's and the Ohio Hospital Association signed by the Attorney General.
  - There is a healthcare kit on [healtrafficking.org](http://healtrafficking.org)
  - In conjunction with this, it was discussed that this needs to go through legal to distribute and follow the Am hospital guidelines. To best accomplish, the Commission needs to get buy in higher up and not just have hospital employees watch a video, but obtain face to face training.
- Creation of liaison program whereby experienced HT investigators could train one (or more) officers at each police department to amplify investigative efforts.

#### **2020 goals:**

- Work to expand coalition coverage across the state and identify where there is uneven distribution of coalition resources
- Update the Victim Service standards

## **Subcommittees:**

- The group discussed potential subcommittees the Human Trafficking Commission will have.
- It was decided that it would be best for each subcommittee to determine their own goals and bring those proposed ideas to the full Commission for approval.
- The group discussed the importance of having survivor representation within the Commission and it was established that each subcommittee will have a survivor role in place, if possible.
- The group voted to have labor trafficking as a part of every subcommittee.
- There will be a representative of law enforcement on each subcommittee because of overlap, if possible.
- The group discussed that youth inclusion will play a key role on every subcommittee.
- Law enforcement will have its own subcommittee and will focus on the Human Trafficking Liaison for other LE agencies
- Both state and federal perspectives will be on each subcommittee, if possible.

The subcommittees are as follows:

- Law enforcement Subcommittee
- Victim Service Subcommittee
- Research/Gap Analysis and Data Subcommittee
- Public Awareness Subcommittee
- Healthcare Subcommittee
- Demand Reduction Subcommittee
- Legal and Legislative Subcommittee

Harold D'Souza said that he is willing to bring together a group of foreign national victims to let law enforcement know how they got to the United States because it's not always illegal arrival.

Special Agent Jason Beever stated HSI/ICE has victim services, forensic interviews and NGO liaisons that can help to find ways for victims to stay in the U.S.

At future Commission meetings it was decided by the group to have the different agencies from across the state present to the Commission a basic background of the organization and what services they offer. Please email [HTI@ohioattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:HTI@ohioattorneygeneral.gov) if you are interested in presenting at our next meeting in May.

## **Human Trafficking Initiative Updates:**

- Check out our new website: <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/HumanTrafficking>
- Released the 2019 Ohio Attorney General's Human Trafficking Annual Report
- We are meeting with BCI missing and runaways

- Conducting trainings for AEP, Columbia Gas and other non-traditional groups
- Working to visit all coalitions across the state
- Send your legislative input on our 3 bills: HB415 Receiving Proceeds, HB431 Establishing a public “Johns” database, HB 128 “Soliciting vs. “Engaging” and SB247 Summarizes all the above bills, by April 5<sup>th</sup> to [HTI@ohioattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:HTI@ohioattorneygeneral.gov) – we appreciate all the feedback we can get.
- Please email us what subcommittee you would like to be placed on.
- The next Commission meeting will be held on **Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-12:00 on the 18<sup>th</sup> floor of 150 Gay Street**

### **Agency Updates:**

**Youngbee Dale, Dale Consulting:** Continuing statewide efforts

**Ann Bischoff, Star House:** Star House works with the FBI on runaways and recommends the same for other social service agencies if they are able

**Bill Cranston, Mahoning Task Force:** wrapped up a large Human trafficking case and was able to convict a man for bringing over 100 victims to a johns house. He received a 15-year sentence. They also conducted a sting with Trumbull County and arrested 8 perpetrators.

**Ruth Downing, Forensic Nursing Network:** They can provide healthcare trainings throughout the state upon request

**Winnifred Boyland, Collaborative to End Human Trafficking:** Greater Cleveland Coordinated Response has crafted and delivered suggested best practices for different industries including hotel and also law enforcement. They are crafting tools that are effective.

**Deb Seltzer, Ohio Department of Health:** Work with community resource and health centers. Victims refer to the appropriate healthcare. June 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> they are having a conference for OAESV.

**Maria Busch, Ohio Department of Public Safety:** They are administering the HHS federal grant. They are working to build coalitions throughout the state. On June 12<sup>th</sup> they are hosting a coalition leadership conference at the Statehouse. Representatives from the McCain Institute in Arizona will be speaking. There will be sessions to address the needs that leaders have raised.

**Greg, RAHAB ministries:** They are adding 2 more drop in centers in Stark County. They will be providing mentorship to youth in Stark County.

**Kristen Beggs, FBI:** Alianza614 event this coming Saturday at Whitehall Yearling HS.

**Aaron Dennis, Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force:** Helping other smaller agencies to conduct stings.

**DC Knight, Columbus PD:** They have a comprehensive Human Trafficking plan for the city (Franklin County). This includes 5 pillars. They are working on local legislation to go in tandem with the state's efforts (there will be a mandatory minimum).

**Dr. Tony Talbott, University of Dayton:** They have events that are coming up and can be found on Abolition Ohio's website. They are revisiting juvenile response in the area including specialty docket potential. They are also releasing a white paper within the next few months on Illicit Massage Parlors in Ohio. They are developing a harm reduction human rights response. He mentioned the buyer's remorse website that is similar to the states john database proposal. It has a geolocation advertisement info attached for where the buyer lives. (Directly connected to Facebook).

**Christi Bartman:** Human Trafficking Awareness Day at the statehouse was a success. The housing report is out and will be updated as information is gathered. The hope is to have another housing meeting at the end of the summer. She is working on creating a coalition in southeast Ohio.

**Harold D'Souza, US Advisory Council:** The US advisory Council on Human Trafficking Report has been submitted. He is working in India/Nepal on creating a national hotline for the region.

**Michelle Hannan, Salvation Army:** Gave a program overview of the Salvation Army in Columbus. Mentioned that the Office of Victims of Crime has great Human Trafficking webinars and can be used as a resource.

**Veronica Scherbauer, Ohio Department of Public Safety:** There is a monthly newsletter that goes out, email if you would like to receive it. They have free training available that they can give to anywhere in the state and they will come to you.