



HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2024 | 10 a.m.-noon

Anna Beck, Annette Mango, Sarah Brown, Yuan-Hung Chen, Catie Cleveland, Dan Cuckler, Erin Meyer, Glenn Harris, Kathleen Hackett, Harold D'Souza, Lily Holderbaum, Jill Jackson, Kelli Jarrell, Jean-Phillippe Rigaud, Joey A. Compton, Sara Johnson, Josh Edwards, Julie Shroyer, Janis Karam, Kevin Bringman, Kwami Adoboe-Herrera, Lara Wilken, Cassandra Hartman, Julie Troiano, Lauren Spector, Lisa Gifford, Anne M. Mann, Maya Simek, Megan McKinney, Melissa Minnick, Michael Bokmiller, Michelle Yeasting, Nancy Hashman, Leslie Potterton; Rebecca Bundy, Rocky Nelson, Ruth Downing, Samantha Solomon, Michelle Sorrell, Jennifer Tscholl, Celia Williamson, Carol Wygart, Gwen England, Hannah Esterbrook, Heather Wilde, Tara Alston, Chelsea Gaffey, Veroncia Scherbauer, Michelle Hannan, Naima Ilmi, Mary Kate Waggoner, Linda Majeska Powers; Lara Wilken, Cindy Adams, Maya Simmick, Haleigh Young, Alecia Wells, Terry Brown, Chelsea Gaffey, Jason Schaver, Erin Meyer, Tara Alston, Hope Daniels; Gwen England; Hannah Esterbrook; Heather Wilde; Christy Bartmann; Becca Picken; Harold D'Souza; Anna Travis; Nancy Hashman; Dancy D'Souza; Kathleen Hackett; Terry Hood Brown; Holly Regan; Emily Dunlap; Natasha Cooper; Erin Meyer; Rep. Tracey Richardson; Rosario Sanchez; Cassandra Hartman; Dr. Jefferson

Introductions: Linda Majeska Powers

Introductions of persons in attendance

Advisory Ambassador Updates:

Mary Kate Waggoner:

Our team of Ambassadors have amazing expertise and bring so much to the table. They help guide all projects and the things that we are doing. Many of them are on the call today. We meet every other month as a group just to go over various projects the commission is working on to discuss different opportunities for survivor leaders. We had a meeting last week. We talked a lot about the Human Trafficking Summit and where things are out with registration. We are excited because the Summit, the theme of the Summit is the continuum of care and that was really informed by what we are hearing from our Survivor leaders about what was needed. Many of the workshops this year are survivor led. It is going to be an amazing conversation and we have had a lot of folks register so far. We still have a little over a month for people to register. We are hoping that all our ambassadors there that day being an active part of the Summit and volunteer as monitors if they are not presenting that day. We discussed some of the exciting things happening in each of their lives. All of them have different goals and specific interest areas

within the field of anti-trafficking. We always like to give them a space to discuss the good things that are going on in their lives so that we can know how to further support them. Since there are a lot of ambassadors on the call if they would like to unmute and share anything that I might be missing, or updates feel free to go ahead and do that. No worries if no one has any updates, but that is all I have for ambassador updates. Oh, thank you, we, I will add one more thing, in our last meeting we discussed some of the different project ideas coming up in the health care subcommittee. We really want to make sure the projects we are doing are effective and we were talking about different outreach materials and what would be helpful in a hospital setting versus what wouldn't be for various people. We are getting some really good ideas that we will discuss more in further meetings. We are just thankful for their input and creative ideas to better reach folks in the hospital setting. So that is officially all I have.

Linda Powers: It might be a quick meeting today. Let's get into the subcommittee updates then. Heather you are here today, thank you for coming, I appreciate it. What is going on with the Healthcare?

Subcommittee updates:

Health Care-Chair Heather Wilder:

Just following what Mary Kate said, first we are wrapping up the videos for now. We have done now five videos that we are using to help educate health care settings. The most recent one that we did is the video for EMS. We had an amazing opportunity with the Cleveland Heights Fire Department. Their Chief was in the video. I saw that Michelle Sorrell was on the phone, she was instrumental in helping us find a place to do it. It was a video of when EMS goes to a house and what they see there and what is viewed by EMS. Our ambassadors are always an integral part of helping us to develop the video as well as the guide that goes along with it. I know we are blessed to have four ambassadors on our subcommittee that generally attend nearly every meeting. I know Annette's on there, Nancy, Harold, I am not sure if I saw Steph. We are very lucky to have them. On the EMS video Annette was a part of it. She lives in Cleveland and was able to be on scene and make sure we were getting it right. We never want to do anything without the Survivor there. She was a little bit of an actress but also able to make sure we did the video right. We are waiting on the guide for that one and that will be our fifth video on the AG website. We are super excited about that. With that, we are presenting the simulation at the HT Summit, so we are bringing that as well. As Mary Kate said we are done with the videos for a little while so we are trying to figure out with the help of the what the next project is going to be for those that come into the hospital and how we can reach them and how we can give them information best. Stay tuned, hopefully something good is coming soon with that.

Linda Majeska Powers: We received notification from Trinity, and I haven't had a chance to tell you yet. Trinity Health Care is interested in looking at our videos and working with our videos and potentially taking some portions of the videos and putting them into their professional trainings that they have across the country. They were really impressed with our videos. I just

wanted to touch base on that. We are getting some really good feedback from other health care organizations that are utilizing our training videos and enjoying those training videos. Kudos to Healthcare and everyone that was involved in creating those training videos, we really appreciate it.

Victim Services-Co-Chair Michelle Hannon:

Good morning, everyone. Two areas of updates, first just where things stand with our state anti-trafficking service standards and the self-assessment process. We are a couple years into the process now and we have gotten, we are tweaking things as we go along, and we are learning things along the way. Just for those that may be new to this process. Our state standards are now tied to a self-assessment process, that is where organizations can program by program, what they offer can go in and rate themselves according to our state standards and then look for areas of growth and reach out for technical assistance if that is needed and for the organizations that programs that meet the standards they have the option of choosing, to be listed on the state service directory. That is the overall process. Here is what we are tweaking, there is a link to the survey that really stays open all the time, but we sort of publicize it two times a year. We are coming up on its opening on “July 1” and then again in January when it will happen. Really an organization can complete the survey at any time in the process and we can reach out and connect throughout, but we really gather up the data and do things with it twice a year. Right now, we have provided, the HTI office has provided the feedback to those who took the survey earlier in 2024 and in 2023 as well. Our committee is reaching out to any organizations that are interested in having further discussions about that. Something that we are working on with HTI office right now, a lesson learned as we went through the process, is we realized that some of the responding organizations, with great intentions and from the bottom of their hearts have said “we will serve anybody in the state”. I love that spirit, but we realized as we started searching on the directory that, that could be inadvertently misleading say somebody, a survivor in the Youngstown area needs a service in Dayton and thinks that it is statewide, and the services are geographically rooted. Even though they would be willing to serve, most providers would be willing to partner and do what we could for someone out of the area or make sure they could get the services that they need. We are looking at that right now and looking at how we address that and making sure that someone is in some region, if you have an established service region that those are the only areas that you will respond to, just to cut down on any misdirection by accident for folks who are trying to service. We are working on that process. I have an update for Rebekkah and her apologies that she is unable to be here with us today. She wanted to report on the child response protocol. Right now, the content is all complete and that sub-subcommittee is no longer meeting but three of the committee members have provided a final copy and another member of that group is working on charts and graphs and when those things are all integrated, they are going to send it to the Department of Safety and Visualization Department, and she thinks at the end of this week. That will get made pretty and then it will be back to HTI, and it

will be shared on the HTI website and the humantrafficking.gov website. That is exciting we are coming upon the completion of that project. As a committee we will be looking at how do we move through the tweaking on the survey assessment process and what is next. We had some brainstorming on what is next. We will hold off for the next meeting to report once we firmly decide what we are going to do.

Linda Majeska Powers: Thank you, does anyone have any questions?

Samantha Solomon: I do. This is Samantha Solomon. Hi everyone, it is so nice to see everybody. I have a quick question, as it pertains to the organizations working with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network for the disbursement of the human trafficking grant funds. I am wondering if you guys have reached out to Jasmine, who has just been hired by ODVN to help disperse and regulate those funds. I am just wondering if you have connected at all.

Michelle Hannon: As a committee we have not connected but Rebekkah being part of the process at the ODPS that in that relationship with ODVN, I can turn over to the DPS folks over here, but I know that your office is working closely with ODVN on those.

Chelsea Gaffey: We have standing meeting, thank Michelle, with Jasmine and Shelley at ODVN every month to check in on how those grants are going. We will be helping with some site visits and grant monitoring with those.

Samantha Solomon: Awesome, thank you for the update.

Linda Majeska Powers: There was a question from Sarah asking Michelle to say the name again? Sarah, can you elaborate on your question for us.

Sarah: Sorry. Just the name of the report that she was mentioning was going to be available.

Linda Majeska Powers: Rebekkah's report.

Michelle: The Child Response Protocol. This is an update of, I believe the document was first developed and released in 2014.

Chelsea Gaffey: It was recently released in 2017.

Michelle: 2017 so this is update and it has been a significant update. I can't wait to see the final.

Haleigh: Michelle, I have reached out to Safe Harbor too and I did a site visit there and I encouraged them when they open to also fill out that self-assessment since there are not a lot of youth residential places out there.

Michelle: Absolutely, thanks Haleigh. That is great and if there is anything that we can do, we appreciate your leadership there in helping to make those connections with the committee.

Linda Majeska Powers: Any further questions before we loop back to JP? JP can you please bring us up to date on what is going on with law enforcement.

Law Enforcement-Co-Chair JP Rigaud:

I don't have an extensive report today. I know for sure and if you have done any kind of, if you are connected to any of the task forces in Ohio, you know that they have been extremely busy. I know speaking with our task force alone we have been very tasked with the spa investigation which we had partnered with many of you advocate groups in March of last year. It continues to weigh very heavily on us because of the financial piece of building that together. I am sure for every task force the financial piece is probably something that just never comes together because of the need for forensic accountants, which we have found very difficult. I think throughout the state I am sure it is a struggle to find many, just be the fact that they are very good, but they are all tasked with other types of investigations. Very busy across the state. I can speak to that generically. We do have, there is going to be another statewide task force operation, obviously I cannot share dates or times with you but that is something that will be scheduled. Attorney General Yost is very keen and instrumental wanting to see that kind of statewide operation happen. There is the planning, I know we have presented on the law enforcement presentation. The presentation like what we have seen, your other committees that could go out to law enforcement to the public a generic type of presentation which they can adopt and modify. We do have some drafts of that right now but that is where we are at with our task forces and our law enforcement subcommittee. That is, I do not have much else to report today. If there are any questions, I would be happy to take them.

Linda Majeska Powers: JP do you need any assistance with the publications or communications in getting those slides ready for you?

JP: No, I think we are good it just is a matter of, within the subcommittee I one other member who. I can send you a copy of the draft for review. We should be good.

Public Awareness-Chair Lara Wilken:

Hi, Lara Wilken here. I am so sad I could not be there is person. I usually try to make it. Really excited to share that public awareness has been doing. Super proud of our team. I used to say that we were small but mighty, but we are growing and that is amazing as well with our members. The first thing that I want to share is that we are very pleased to announce that the Human Trafficking 101 Best Practices Guide to Raising Awareness in Your Community has been published on the HTI webpage as a resource for those wanting to provide education. The guide discusses important considerations when presenting on HT 101, such as appropriate language, imagery and using credible resources. If anyone wants to check that out, they can go to the HTI webpage and find that under publications. We have also completed another document very similar in nature that is the Best Practice Guide When Educating Youth on Human Trafficking Awareness. That will be published very soon. Moving onto our other projects if you all recall we had created a survey that we sent out to the commission members to try to gauge where human trafficking education was taking place in the state of Ohio. We are really excited to share with the group based on our launch, we have determined that 67 counties out of the 88 have received

human trafficking education over the course of the last year. Our plan is to send the survey out annually so that we can gauge where education is taking place as well as what type of education it is with the hope that at one point, we will be able to say that all 88 counties in Ohio have received education. Now for the members who completed that survey, we have an additional survey that we have developed that will be sent out to that group. The survey will be password protected and it is going to serve as a private listserv that will be available to Mary Kate and Linda. We know there is a great need for education when it comes to human trafficking, and we also know that Mary Kate and Linda are only two people, and they can't be everywhere at once. So, this private listserv will give them an opportunity to individuals that might want to volunteer to be able to provide education when they cannot be there. Lastly, those were our last projects, now moving into our new projects one consisted of re-vamping our public awareness flyers for summer fair distribution. We know that is soon here. A lot of the county fairs are going to be ramping up. We just kind of wanted to review both the posters that we had for sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Really getting input from our survivor ambassadors because we have quite a few of you on the public awareness subcommittee to ensure that these posters would be appropriate to them and the public in general. Mary Kate is working with the Communications team on those flyers right now, based on the feedback that our subcommittee gave. Lastly, we are going to be working on and revamping two items that are currently on the HTI webpage. Those items are the parent resource guide and apps to watch. Both are centered around social media and gaming and all those types of things. They are a little outdated especially the apps to watch so we have developed two working groups that are going to be revamping those, helping to make them more current and including information about AI because we know that is big right now and neither of the resources have the information on that. That is pretty much everything that public awareness is working on. Giving a shout-out to our Team. We could not do this work without each one of you. We appreciate you greatly. If anyone has any questions, please let me know.

Linda Majeska Powers: Dave Corliss, you have your hand up. Could you unmute and let us know what your question is.

Dave Corliss: On education, do you know if there is anyone working in propensity studies and tracking, you talked about we are moving towards all 88 counties to include education available. Do you know anyone that works on statistical analysis to see if that increase in training affects the number of reports of contacts on these kinds of things. Measure the impact of what that education is doing. It is so important for going to the legislature and asking for support both financial and staff.

Lara: First of all, very nice to meet you and thank you for that excellent question. Public Awareness Subcommittee is kind of new to the developing these projects. What I mean by that is, we kind of really hit all this one time within a year. I think with a lot of projects we only meet once a month. We just now were able to determine how many of our commission members were providing education in all these areas and the type of education they are giving. The survey

really breaks down things like, is the education survivor informed, does it include sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Now that we have that base knowledge that is something we can look at being a future project. Especially with the fact we are going to be continuing to be doing these surveys annually. This is something we would be very open to looking into and if you would want to be a part of our subcommittee and bring this idea to the group, we would absolutely love to have you and I can put my email on the chat, and we can talk about this in a side conversation and see how we can move forward. How does that sound?

Dave Corliss: That sounds great. I will touch base and take this offline. Thank you.

Lara: Excellent and thank you so much.

Demand Reduction: Chat message left by Rebecca Bundy

Linda Majeska Powers: I would like to loop back to Demand because there is a chat message from Rebecca Bundy who indicates her microphone is not working however, she is assisting Tony Talbot with the demand reduction initiative, and they are in the process of finishing the white paper they are working on. There are different sections of the white paper that have been distributed to the sub-subcommittees that are working on those sections. I think they break into three sub-subcommittees on three different areas, if I am correct. They are working on each of their separate areas compiling research and information. The process is still ongoing, but they are working on that white paper. Thank you very much Rebecca for putting that in the chat. Hopefully you can get the microphone working and we can touch base. Just raise your hand and let us know if there is something else, we need to add for that. Thank you so much.

Cornelius: In terms of Lara, I want to get in touch with you. I need your email please. I want to follow back up with you what you were talking about report and some of the other programs you discussed, you said you gave an update on today.

Lara: Thank you so much, I am excited to hear from you. So glad you are back with us. My email is in the chat. If you want to send me a message, I would love to set up a time to speak with you.

Cornelius: Thank you. I see some other colleagues out there and we will be cranking it up.

Legal & Legislative-Chair Samantha Solomon:

Hi everybody again and good morning. My name is Samantha Salomon. I am the chair of the Legal and Legislative subcommittee. There has been so much legislation going on right now. It is almost overwhelming. The good thing, because there is a lot of changes and a lot of bills that are being proposed to help human trafficking survivors. There are also some bills that may need a little bit of a touch up. Some we would like to hear different perspectives. One thing I always say about legal and legislative subcommittee is while it sounds like it is only legal jargon, it is only talking about bills and things, that's not what we do. That is a portion obviously of what we do, it is not exclusive to legal professionals. Quite the contrary, we love different perspectives.

While there might be a bill dealing with the legal process, politics and everything behind it, at the end of the day that bill impact how we are serving the trafficking survivors in your respective area, and we want to know whether the language being used in that bill could be implemented and what the practical implications might be or look like. If anyone is interested in joining the legal and legislative subcommittee, we are more than happy to get more people into our group. At the beginning of the year, we always have three different goals that we want to accomplish. This year we have three goals. The first deals with the expungement bill which we are super excited about where it is going, it is not ideal language, to be transparent it is step in the right direction. That is something we are keeping our fingers crossed that will pass because at the end of the day it is opening remedies to labor trafficking survivors which is something that the current expungement bill does not cover. So that goal. The second goal is dealing with educating our youth and something a little more on Erin's law. Which is again a law that has passed, I believe last year with educating our teachers and faculty of school and then educating students on age specific issues as it pertains to sexual assault, sexual harassment, child abuse and so on and so forth. There is a component related to human trafficking that we really wanted to emphasis. For those of you who are not familiar with Shared Hope, the report that they do every year, that was one of the documents that we utilized in figuring out when utilizing when figuring out this goal. During the Shared Hop last report, they said one of the key areas that Ohio struggled in was educating the youth about these issues. We really wanted to utilize our time with Erin's Law and figure out how we can implement more education about human trafficking. How we can do it in a somewhat standardized process. One thing we are recognizing right now is that Ohio, which you will appreciate, is extremely different from one side of the state to the other. What is being taught in one school district is different than what is being taught in another school district or is not being taught at all. We are trying to figure out a way that we can streamline that, whether that be through the legal process or through a more implementation process. We are brainstorming and dealing with that. We are still looking at various other pieces of legislation. Again, there are so many that are going on right now. I know there are bunch of people online that are mind boggling how many we are dealing with in the present time. The last goal that we had for this year is to figure out housing issues, but really focusing on different ways of shelters and how they are being used. Whether they be recovery centers or shelters for human trafficking survivors. We are doing best practices and what they look like making sure they are the best they can be with protecting survivors. We are very blessed that we have some awesome survivors to work with that are on our team and are part of the collaborative to focus on this goal. Those are the main things we are doing right now on the Legal & Legislative subcommittee. It is a non-inclusive list. We do things that come up. Sometimes we must have a meeting. We have a bill we are quickly trying to look at. Or other types of issues to discuss, if we can figure out something from the capacity that we have. I believe that concludes my summary.

Linda Majeska Powers: Thank you very much, Sam. We appreciate it. Going onto our last subcommittee Research, Data and Gap Analysis. Do I have someone here who is a co-chair that

is willing to give us a summary as to status? Is Kirsty on? I did not see Kirsty on. Oh, hi Celia. Thank you, Celia.

On behalf of Research, Data & Gap Analysis, Celia Williamson:

We have been developing an adult screening tool that is statistically valid. We have a youth screening tool that is statistically valid. For the youth tool we have been using for a few years now in Toledo. It is going to go eventually across the state. This is our screening tool. After we have done a lot of analysis with the initial screening tool, with the 2.0 version we are validating that, and we have screened over 230 adults in Toledo, and we are wanting to get another 34 before we can do analysis for the tool there. That is really all I must report at this time.

Linda Majeska Powers: Thank you so much, we really appreciate you stepping in and letting us know what is going on. Going back to Sam, Dave Corliss in the chat: Sam do you maintain a calendar of legislative committee meetings. "I had a conflict and missed the meeting on the expungement bill but hope to have the opportunity to present my research at a future hearing."

Samantha Soloman: As it pertains to the actual hearing, because there is such a quick turnaround typically for those meetings, we know 48 to 72 hours in advance of when a hearing is going to be done. I typically do not do that; I know Kirsty through the Greater Cleveland Collaborative to End Human Trafficking have individuals that are doing these updates in terms of the actual hearings. When it comes to pieces of legislation that is something that we also kind of go over in the meetings. If you are looking for the actual hearings themselves, I think that might be better to reach out to Kirsty Mouncey about. Kirsty oversees the Data Collection subcommittee. For me personally, I typically am not able to do that, to keep up with that.

Linda Majeska Powers: I have another question for Sam from the chat. This one is coming in from Nancy Hashman. Can you please let us know when your subcommittee meets.

Sam: As of right now we are regularly meeting on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 12:00 via ZOOM. There might be a little hiccup this month but that is our standard time that we meet. Again, that is the 3rd Thursday of every month at 12:00 p.m. I will put my email in the chat if you are interested in participating and receiving the email invite. Please just send me an email. Thanks.

Linda Majeska Powers: Thank you very much. Any other questions, for any of our chairs before we move on? Alright, going to General HT Business.

HTI Updates: Linda Majeska Powers

The first thing I wanted to say is that I received an email this morning. Very excited. Jennifer Rausch, who was my predecessor, was just appointed the HT Coordinator for the Southern District of Ohio. Hats off to Jennifer, that is a great position for her, well deserved. I just wanted

to do a shout out to Jennifer, I know she is not on however I am proud of her. Way to go. Onto general HTI updates we have of course, the Summit is coming up quickly. We are excited about all the workshops. We encourage everyone to get on and get registered for them. It will be a wonderful Summit. It is in person this time. There is no hybrid because we realized that people are tired of hybrids and doing the virtual. We really wanted to have a community and contacts for the people that are attending. There are 27 workshops over that day period. Marti MacGibbon is coming and she going to be our keynote. She is out of California. Not only is she going to be the keynote, but she is also doing a breakout session on the intersectionality between opioids and human trafficking. I encourage everyone to jump on if you have not registered to do so. Please let your colleagues know. It is \$50.00 for the registration, including lunch, continental breakfast and there are CEUs that we are working on. We have been approved for CLEs. A lot of our social work CEUs have been approved and we have help with the Nursing CEUs and it looks like those will go through as well. We have a lot of different workshops for different entities. There is law enforcement as well as social work, nurses, doctors as well. A whole bevy of interesting topics that are out there. I encourage you to look at the registration. We are going to leave the scholarships open for a little bit because we want to encourage individuals to apply. We have a limited number of those that are available to survivors, students and NGOs that may need that scholarship. We are encouraging those individuals to fill out the scholarship forms. Of course, our ambassadors, most of which are participating in the workshops, you are deemed an AGO employee, so you can go ahead and register as such.

Discussions were had about the HTI participation with Buckeye Girls State and the AGO Teen Ambassador Board. Nancy came to speak with Harold before the Teen Ambassador Board. We put on a mini summit for them on Human Trafficking. There were 70 in attendance. They were very inquisitive and a lot of taken what they learned at the mini summit back to their high schools so they can talk to their peers on the subject and potentially create chapters on human trafficking in terms of groups and prevention within their school systems. At Buckeye Girls State yesterday a handful of the Teen Ambassadors came up to me and discussed how much they did not know about human trafficking before the mini summit. We are still spreading information as much as we can to the youth.

Upcoming Trainings & Developments:

We talked about the summit, but I know there are a lot of upcoming trainings going on. Celia, I know you have one coming up. Celia are you still on? Would anyone like to jump in and discuss training with the members today?

Samantha Solomon: Yes, I would like to discuss, on behalf of the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking and our surrounding county collaboratives, most of northeast Ohio Collaboratives are coming together for the second annual human trafficking conference and it is going to be on October 18, 2024. It is going to be at the University of Akron Law School. Everything has already been booked and planned. I like to emphasize that. Our theme is Justice

for All. I know there are many individuals who are on here that are part of brainstorming to figure things out and get it organized. If anyone else is interested in participating and preparing for this, please let me know.

The next meeting will be the 3rd Quarter HTC on September 11, 2024, at the Mt. Carmel Healthy Living Center. Thank you to all the new members that joined us today.