



HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 2022 | 1:00-2:30PM

1. Welcome and Introduction – Jomel Spurlock
 - i. Attendees introduced themselves and Jomel Spurlock introduced the first guest speaker, Michael Sheline, Director of Crime Victims Services.
2. Michael Sheline, Director of Crime Victims Services AGO
 - i. Michael gave an update on the VOCA grant and changes to the Compensation Program from SB36. The VOCA fund went from \$100 million in 2016 to \$40 million in 2021. USDOJ altered the funding stream from a portion of criminal lawsuits to civil lawsuits. VOCA has had level funding for the past two years and a drop in funding is expected for next year. A VOCA fix was passed in Congress but the benefits of that will be delayed for a time.
 - ii. SB36 has brought big changes to the Compensation Program by taking away the 10 year felony look-back and abolishing the tox screening. This opens up more opportunity for victims to be eligible for victim's compensation.
3. Tara Alston, Ohio Department of Transportation
 - i. Tara Alston is the Anti-Trafficking Program Coordinator for ODOT. She gave a presentation on ODOT's new Empowerment through Employment Program and explained how it offers pathways to employment for individuals with lived experience. ODOT has developed partnerships with local organizations that serve survivors of human trafficking.
 - ii. All ODOT external job postings that range all across Ohio are shared with partners and then the partner agencies share the posting with the survivors they are connected with. Once hired, Tara is the point of contact for the employees with lived experience. A trauma-informed management training was created for all supervisors at ODOT to complete.
 - iii. Tara made the powerpoint available to all who want to have it.
4. Kelli Cary, RAHAB Ministries
 - i. Kelli Cary, VP of Programming for RAHAB Ministries gave a presentation on the Willows Program. The Willows provides community-based programming to youth

survivors of sex trafficking and those at-risk (11-17). It also offers a family-centered approach that wraps support and services around youth in partnership with parents, families of origin, and foster families. Another part arm of the Willows is training and equipping caregivers in partnership with therapeutic foster homes.

- ii. Comprehensive case management for youth and caregiver, one on one mentorship, 24/7 caregiver support line, MDT model and respite for caregiver/youth once a month is available if referral is within a 60-mile radius.
- iii. RAHAB is committed to increasing the number of emergency, long-term and respite beds by recruiting new foster families and offering caregiver training so that they are equipped to care for trafficked youth.
- iv. Kelli made the powerpoint available to all who want to have it.

5. Advisory Council Ambassadors Updates

- i. Harold D'Souza will be traveling to India and will be doing speaking engagements on human trafficking and encouraging the importance of survivor voices to guide the work being done in the area he is traveling to.

6. Subcommittee Updates

- i. Law Enforcement Subcommittee – Jean-Philippe Rigaud
 - i. The subcommittee had a meeting 8/24 with 12 agencies participating
 - ii. Operation Times Up had 98 participating law enforcement agencies across the state.
- ii. Victims Services Subcommittee – Kelli Cary and Michelle Hannan
 - i. The subcommittee launched the Self-Assessment survey that agencies are able to take in order to know if they are meeting the service standards for serving survivors of human trafficking. They received a total of 35 responses and are currently processing the responses. The assessment survey will be opened on a quarterly basis and will give new agencies and agencies who did not meet the standards previously to take the survey.
 - ii. The victim services subcommittee will be working on updating the 2017 Child Response Protocol.
 - iii. Focus groups are being sought on the federal program to engage survivors of labor trafficking in order to get input and learn what works best. Compensation will happen for every survivor participant regardless of minimal or full participation.

- iii. Demand Reduction – Tony Talbott
 - i. The subcommittee is creating a Human Trafficking 101 module/slides that can be shared and plugged into any presentation. This also includes module/slides on demand.
 - ii. The white paper on demand from the previous administration is currently being updated
 - iii. Next meeting is set for 10/19, 12pm – 1pm
- iv. Public Awareness – Lara Wilken
 - i. The subcommittee is condensing and updating the Best Practices Training Guide. The guide will be sent out for peer review.
- v. Research, Data & Gap Analysis – Kirsti Mouncey
 - i. The Attorney General met with the subcommittee and asked for the group to develop framework for legislation with a budget and/or steps to gather good data on human trafficking in Ohio.
 - ii. The subcommittee is establishing an advisory committee to create a survey and next steps.
- vi. Legal and Legislative – Samantha Salamon
 - i. Samantha Salamon gave an update on what laws they are reviewing in order to see what input then can gather that will strengthen existing laws. Samantha also announced Advocacy Day that will be taking place at the statehouse for legislators to learn more about human trafficking. Senator Fedor’s legislative aide, Benjamin Berrigan said the Senator is still working on their expungement bill and some progress is being made. Representative Richardson gave an update on her expungement bill and the hope to work together with senator Fedor’s bill and get an expungement bill passed for the benefit of survivors of human trafficking.
- vii. Healthcare – Heather Wilde
 - i. The subcommittee filmed two videos with different scenarios for healthcare providers, one being for OB/Labor and Delivery departments. A portion of the video with a message by one of the Ambassadors was shown. Many people remarked how powerful the video was and that they are grateful for the work put into training for healthcare providers. Video was shown with the permission of the Ambassador.

7. General HTI updates –Jomel Spurlock

- i. Update on Human Trafficking Summit, January 26th, 2023. Summit will be 600 in-person and up to 1000 virtual attendees. Registration to go live hopefully at the end of October.

8. Upcoming Trainings and Developments – Group

- i. Summit Collaborative is now a 501C3.

9. In attendance: Jomel Spurlock, Katie Blankemeyer, Michelle Hannan, Kelli Cary, Harold D'Souza, Christi Bartman, Maria Busch, Veronica Scherbauer, Rebekkah O'Bryan, Joella Franzen, Tara Alston, Lara Wilken, Rocky Nelson, JP Rigaud, Representative Richardson, Annette Mango, Bill Cranston, Crystal Rankin, Kirsti Mouncey, Maggie Kane, Emily Dunlap, Cynthia VanCleve, Jennifer Riley-Himes, Chelsea Gaffey, Heather Wilde, Benjamin Berrigan, Atticus, Julia Wike, Andrea Tawney, Michael Sheline, Dana Hess, Erin Meyer, Jill Jackson, Kathy Chen, Representative White, Larry Henerhan, Carolyn Bevins, Jill Gorz, Amy Lagesse, Larry McCoy, Matt Hilbert, Viann Barnnet, Ruth Downing, Samantha Salamon, Steve Irwin, Seth Boughton, Ryan Emahiser, Rocky Nelson