



HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEETING MINUTES

June 15, 2021 | 9 -10 AM

1. Welcome and Introduction by HTI – Jennifer Rausch, Jomel Aird and Emily Billman
2. Ambassador Compensation Update – Jennifer Rausch
 - a. Jen Rausch provided an update on the status of Ambassador compensation. The Human Trafficking Summit had a surplus of funds totaling approximately \$8,200. In an effort to be equitable, the Ohio Attorney General’s office is able to compensate each ambassador up to \$900 for work that they do during the rest of 2021. This equals a rate of \$20/hour and allows each of the Ambassadors to work up to 45 hours total.
 - b. We have created a compensation tracking sheet to track the hours worked by each Ambassador. At the end of every month, they will send their completed logs to their respective subcommittee chair(s). Each subcommittee chair will then submit the completed forms to HTI by the first of every month.
 - c. Some Ambassadors have done work for the Commission before the fund was up and running. If they are able to document those hours with their subcommittee chair, those hours can be used towards their maximum allowed hours.
3. Subcommittee Updates – Emily Billman
 - a. **Demand Reduction Subcommittee – Dr. Tony Talbott**
 - i. Dr. Tony Talbott shared the Demand Reduction subcommittee is continuing to work with HTI on launching a series of webinars. The group presented their first webinar entitled “Worn, Used and Consumed: The Consumer’s Responsibility to Demand Reduction” and will be hosting a second webinar in August. This second webinar will be focused on the different sex and labor trafficking demand reduction models.
 - ii. The group is also conducting research on evidence-based programming for John Schools. This can be used to advise pre-existing and new intervention programs.
 - iii. The subcommittee is also starting to look at procurement policies. They would like to present information to the State of Ohio regarding the adoption of acquisition regulations that mirror federal laws. These

regulations prohibit businesses from purchasing services that are traced to labor trafficking.

- iv. The subcommittee is also interested in getting input on all of these efforts from the Advisory Ambassador Council.

b. Health Care Subcommittee – Ruth Downing

- i. Ruth Downing stated the Healthcare subcommittee is continuing to work on a data collection pilot for Ohio hospitals. They are gathering information from Ohio forensic nurses and will be compiling the data to show the specifics of what forensic nurses see while serving trafficked persons.
- ii. They are also working with the AGO videography team to create training videos for hospital staff. This project will take a few years to get all 8 scenarios completed.
- iii. A group of forensic nurses on the subcommittee are also working on gathering human trafficking protocols from all hospitals in Ohio. They are going to put together a hospital protocol based on Ohio laws for other hospitals who do not have protocol in place.

c. Law Enforcement Subcommittee – Det. Aaron Dennis

- i. Detective Dennis stated the Law Enforcement subcommittee is putting together a model to combat illicit massage parlors. This model is needed since these investigations are long-term and can take a lot of resources. Sergeant Hess of the Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force is launching this.
- ii. They are also working on creating a law enforcement information sharing system for all the task forces in Ohio.
- iii. They are working with suburban law enforcement to teach them how to understand and run sex buyer operations.
- iv. The Law Enforcement subcommittee is open to any law enforcement personnel and interested Ambassadors.

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

- i. Samantha Salamon stated the Legal & Legislative subcommittee discussed amending language on current legislation.

- ii. End Slavery Cincinnati is hosting a labor trafficking awareness day at the statehouse on June 23rd. Senator Fedor, Bri Combs and Erin Meyer will be leading the event.
- iii. The legal work group is focusing on what they can practically do with the courts. They are compiling a list of legal professionals that have experience with working with human trafficking survivors. The goal is to provide someone who needs assistance or guidance with referrals to these legal professionals.
- iv. The group is continuing the work of former Magistrate Jamie Blair by educating the court systems and their service providers on Safe Harbor. Specifically, they are looking into the different screening tools used for Safe Harbor and reviewing the content to ensure the questions are culturally conscious and cover both sex and labor trafficking. They are working with the Ohio Supreme Court to train Judges, Magistrates, clerks, GALs and any other court staff working with survivors on this topic.
- v. Chelsea Golterman stated the legislative group is continuing to work on the expungement legislation, but they are on hold as the budget continues to make its way through the legislature. They are hoping to look into child protective services and foster care legislation at their next meeting.

e. Research/Data & Gap Analysis Subcommittee – Christi Bartman, Jesse Bach

- i. Christi Bartman stated the Research and Data subcommittee is working on a data report that will be sent to the AG's office in August. They are conducting an analysis on available human data on human trafficking in Ohio and identifying where the gaps exist. This also includes evaluating current data availability by database and accessibility in order to determine what data is collected but not shared. After the report is sent, they will send recommendations based on their findings.
- ii. Christi asked if any member from the Commission has any thoughts or suggestions to please reach out to her.

f. Victim Services Subcommittee – Michelle Hannan, Kelli Carey

- i. Michelle Hannan stated the Service Standards were completed in March. The OSU College of Social Work school created a Qualtrics version of the Standards for all coalitions and organizations to fill out. This data will be used to create the Service Matrix. RAHAB tested out the Qualtrics and the subcommittee is making some changes that will be discussed at their meeting next week. While they are waiting for the changes on the survey,

the group is working on educating and answering any questions coalitions or organizations have about the Standards.

- ii. Michelle also stated the information will be only as good as what goes in. The AHT Coalition network meeting in July will cover the Service Standards and Matrix where Michelle will encourage them to participate in the survey.
- iii. The subcommittee is developing a flow for informed consent and making the coalitions aware of who is going to see the raw data. The OSU College of Social Work and the Victim Services subcommittee will be the only ones to access the raw data. The coalitions and public will only know how many people completed those surveys and not the raw data.
- iv. For Ambassadors, the subcommittee is meeting the last Tuesday of every month from 1-2 PM (large group). Kelli Cary stated the Victims Service Matrix group will meet the second Wednesday of every month.
- v. Samantha Salamon is leading the labor trafficking work group within the Victim Services subcommittee. They are looking at the gaps in education and knowledge of labor trafficking. The group is also looking at existing screening tools to evaluate if they are consistent with labor trafficking and identifying any issues that need addressed.

g. Public Awareness Subcommittee – HTI

- i. The Public Awareness subcommittee is re-configuring itself. Bri Combs from the Cincinnati Salvation Army is helping organize meetings for the committee right now. They are currently working on a chair agreement, co-chair agreement and member agreement.

4. General HTI updates –Jomel Aird

a. Webinars

- i. Jomel Aird explained the HTI team will continue to host webinars in conjunction with the Demand Reduction Subcommittee. The webinar “Worn, Used and Consumed: The Consumer’s Responsibility To Demand Reduction” is available to watch at the following link:
<https://youtu.be/fBfnsTn53ck>.

b. OPOTA Online

- i. A new Human Trafficking 101 course was developed for all law enforcement personnel through OPOTA online.

- c. Sex Buyer Intervention Standards
 - i. Jomel announced the Sex Buyer Intervention Curriculum Standards progress that is being created based on the law that took effect in April. These standards will provide guidance for pre-existing, new or developing John schools in the state of Ohio.
- d. 2022 Human Trafficking Summit Workshop Proposal Requests
 - i. The HTI team will be sending out the 2022 Human Trafficking Summit workshop proposal requests. Based on feedback from the 2021 Summit, the following topics were requested for the 2022 Summit. These topics are not an exhaustive list and other topics are also welcomed for submission.
 - Prosecuting Human Trafficking Cases
 - Identifying and serving minor populations vulnerable to trafficking: LGBTQ, Runaways, Homeless and Foster-Care Youth
 - Multi-Disciplinary Teams
 - Program Models and Funding
 - Adverse Childhood Experiences, Complex Trauma, Physical and Emotional Health
 - Labor Trafficking
 - The Intersection of Drug Addiction and Human Trafficking
 - Healthcare: Best Practices for Practitioners and Providers Caring for Human Trafficking Survivors (first responders, primary level of care, secondary level of care and tertiary level of care)
 - Empowering and Supporting Survivors of Human Trafficking Survivor
 - Law Enforcement Human Trafficking Investigations
 - Demand Reduction

5. Upcoming Trainings and Developments – Group

- a. Dr. Jon Sprague, the Director of Science and Research at the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, was introduced. He will be working with the Data and Research subcommittee to review data analytics between the intersectionality of opioids and trafficking.

- b. Cynthia VanCleve, the Franklin County Family Recovery Court Program Director, was introduced. She is working to get Empowerment Court certified with the Ohio Supreme Court.
- c. Magistrate Fish from RESTORE Court was introduced. He will be taking the place of Magistrate Blair.
- d. Veronica Scherbauer from the Ohio Department of Public Safety announced the RFP in collaboration with the Ohio Supreme Court to fund juvenile diversion programs will be released Thursday. The Governors HT Task Force had their first meeting and will be releasing their goals for the next few years in the coming weeks.
- e. Christi Bartman asked the Commission if members could email her with any information they have on familial trafficking. Eyes Up Appalachia is continuing to work on this issue.
- f. Dr. Tony Talbott asked the HTI team if they could post documents from the previous Commission to the AG website. He also announced Abolition Ohio will be hosting a series of HT101 presentations on Tuesdays from 6-7:30 PM. Register at: <https://forms.gle/dhn2G2nZUxv7vCdZ6>
- g. Ruth Downing announced the Safe House Project has grants that intermittently come out from large corporate companies to launch or create safe houses that need funding. She asked the group to share with their communities a free training for school nurses that will be hosted by the Academy of Forensic Nurses. This training will educate the nurses on victimization they may see in the school system.
- h. Amy LaGesse, FOCUS on Runaways Project Coordinator, announced the Human Trafficking Social Justice Conference hosted by the University of Toledo has opened registration. The event will take place virtually from September 22nd to September 24th. On September 21st there will be a free virtual training for high school teachers, chaperones and students. The link for the conference is here: www.traffickingconference.com

In Attendance:

Mandie Matthews, Erin Glossop, Bri Combs, Christi Bartman, Rebekkah O'Bryan, Michelle Hannan, Kelli Cary, Julia Caple, Chelsea Golterman, Megan Murphy, Veronica Scherbauer, Dr. Tony Talbott, Dr. Jon Sprague, Katie Congrove, Ann Bischoff, Samantha Salamon, Amy LaGesse, Detective Aaron Dennis, Detective Brandon Harmon, Hannah Estabrook, Rayli Boyd, Stephanie Rollins, Hollie Daniels, Sgt. Dana Hess, Debra Seltzer, Greg Colbeck, Valerie Anderson, Erin Meyer, DC Jennifer Knight, Jennifer Beigie,

Kathleen Hackett, Heidi Carr, Carol Skutnik, Magistrate David Fish, Kathryn Taylor, Rebecca Miller, Steve Irwin, Cynthia VanCleve, Jennifer Tscholl, Ryan Emahiser, Ruth Downing, Jennifer Rausch, Jomel Aird, Emily Billman.