



HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEETING MINUTES

Dec. 11, 2023 | 10 a.m.-noon

Lara Wilken, Jean-Phillippe Rigaud, Samantha Solomon, Cindy Adams, Tony Talbott, Maya Simmick, Haleigh Young, Alecia Wells, Terry Brown, Chelsea Gaffey, Jason Schaver, Kristi Mouncey, Erin Meyer, Kwami, Tara Alston, Hope Daniels; Gwen England; Hannah Esterbrook; Heather Wilde; Christy Bartmann; Mary Kate Waggoner; Linda Majeska Powers; Chelsey Gaffney; 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; Annette Mango; Rosario Sanchez; Dave Talbert; Cassandra Hartman; Niama Elmi; Dr. Jefferson

Introductions: Linda Majeska Powers

Introductions of persons in attendance

Advisory Ambassador Updates:

Mary Kate Waggoner:

For those not familiar, as part of the human trafficking initiative we have a team of Ambassadors. Individuals of lived experience with Human Trafficking with a super wide variety of skills and expertise that they bring to the table. We currently have nine Ambassadors serving on the council. They are amazing human beings. Many of them are on the call today. We are missing a few. We had our first in-person meeting together a couple of weeks ago and it was nice to just get to know each other on a human-to-human level. Also, I want to talk about what we want to do with the Ambassadors program. Where they see things going. What the gaps are that we need to be addressing as the Human Trafficking Initiative but as the broader commission as well. And we talked about things that are going well and we did a shared vision board where we would like to see things go. The term that they are serving is 2023-2025 so we have the privilege of being with them for a little longer and we are really excited to see where things are going. Our plan moving forward with the Ambassadors is we would like to keep that traction going with in-person meetings and connecting on a regular basis. We are planning on holding meetings monthly or every other month with our ambassadors. Hopefully have some quarterly or twice a year in-person meetings as we are all over it seems to be together. That is our update, am I missing anything?

Linda Powers: No, it was great because we have three mentors returning from prior, from the first term that we had an ambassador program. It is great for everyone to have been there in person and to be able to meet everyone. It was nice for the Attorney General. He came in midway through the meeting, it was a surprise to the Ambassadors. It was great for him to come and just sit and chat with all of them about how important the program is to him. Generally, a very good meeting. We are really excited about the report that has been written between the Ambassadors that are in this group. It is going to be come exciting things and some exciting projects that are going to be coming from some of these Ambassadors. I think all of them have personal things that they would like to achieve. For example, Kwami is working on temporary housing for male juveniles and well as male adults and he has been embraced by Victim Services in terms of trying to push his project forward. We are so grateful for all the committees that are working with the Ambassadors and are pushing forward with their projects. I just thank all of you. That would be the recaps for the Ambassadors.

Did any of the Ambassadors that are on today have anything that they want to share about the meeting, any thoughts or feedback.

Harold D'Souza: I think the meeting was very fruitful.

Annette Mango: I would like to say welcome to all the new Ambassadors. I can see that everybody wants some great things to happen. And once again welcome to our little group.

Harold D'Souza: Yes, the meeting was fruitful. I was happy to see the Ambassadors. I am happy and proud to see Kwami is working on the temporary housing for male survivors. I am happy to see that, thank you.

Natasha Cooper: Yeah, I think I got a lot out of the meeting, meeting the new Ambassadors, seeing the Attorney General and saying with Linda and Mary Kate, I have a lot to bring to the table, and I think I can learn a lot from both of them. I like that.

Awesome, thank you guys. I appreciate your sharing.

Linda Powers: Thank you. I think the next thing on the agenda we were asked by Tony if we could go ahead, and he could present a small training on demand reduction to the group at large so we are going to ahead Tony if you would like to let me know how you would like me to proceed forward.

Strategies for Demand Reduction Presentation by Chair Tony Talbott:

Tony Talbot: We can do this informally. We are small and if it would be okay, I will just continue sitting here if everyone online can hear me too. I know there are a few members on the call. I saw Kristy and Deb; I don't know if I missed anybody else. Feel free to jump in and add to this as I go through. I've got a couple of dozen slides to go through quickly. The idea is for the last few years we have really been focusing on primary prevention strategy for both sex trafficking and labor trafficking to do with the reduction of demand. Human trafficking is a

commercial enterprise, it is a business, it is an illicit business. So that means there is a supply side and a demand side. Most of work in the past is really focused on the supply side. I am not trying to be crass; I'm just framing it in the approach we are taking. This sort of business model approach. So, we have been focusing on victims and survivors and vulnerabilities and trying to focus on the victim. On focusing on the demand side, we are really trying to focus on prevention of perpetration and reduce the push or the need to exploit vulnerable people and create the victims in the first place. We have put training together, a brief set of slides we have shared out with the Commission that can be dropped into any already existing 101 presentation as sort of an introduction to demand reduction. I will talk a little bit later during the brief training that we are working on larger, more formal training presentations. But this is somewhere in between. Somewhere between fifteen- and twenty minutes overview of demand reduction in general. The idea is really shifting the narrative. We came up with I think a pretty clear and concise definition of what demand reduction is relating to human trafficking. This is what we have shared from our subcommittee after a lot of really hours and hours discussions and readings and a lot of research. I think it is straight forward. This is the only thing that I am going to read directly from the slide but: "Human trafficking creates illicit markets that like all markets involve supply and demand. A demand reduction approach focuses on buyers and traffickers to reduce demand for commercial sex and forced labor. This is accomplished by changing economic factors and social and cultural norms which contribute to the problem." So, this is a real genuine primary prevention approach that stops trafficking from happening before it has occurred. This is a simple model of a business model approach that I talked about. On the bottom line is what a lot of us have seen before. This idea is you have a consumer buyer of commercial sex with victims or cheap services, those are provided to them by a pimp, a trafficker, by a brothel by a labor agent or whatever that is the retail side of this equation. Like I said it is a business. And then that retailer of course supplied by transporters, facilitators, recruiters etc. And at the very end is the actual supply of vulnerable people who are being exploited. Trafficking can also be just two people for example a domestic child sex trafficking victim that was just approached by and individual who is trying to purchase sex from her in exchange for something of value. That is human trafficking as well. So, we put that second line up there to show that it can just be two people, but it can involve more steps, more stages in the process as well. The idea behind all of this is essentially basic economics. The law of supply and the law of demand. Our logical argument briefly is a consumer for sex, or cheap goods and services drives human trafficking. Traffickers exploit victims to meet this demand. If we can change laws, or change cultural norms, we can reduce demand. And if we have a reduced demand, it would be lower victims and fewer victims and lower profits for traffickers. If you look on the right hand of the screen, there is a simple diagram and if you take an economics class you have seen similar diagrams. Basically, if all the things remain the same, look at the red lines where there is the current price of victims, the current price of exploitation value of victims to meet that current level of demand for victimization. If you go straight down from there a certain quantity, that quantity to meet that demand and it leads to that higher price for traffickers. If holding everything else the same we

can reduce the demand, the consumer demand for commercial sex and cheap goods and services then it will lead conceivably to a lower price and to lower number of victims that are being exploited to meet that demand. So, less profits for traffickers and fewer victims altogether. If there is less profit for traffickers the idea, is they do a risk/reward analysis themselves and they are deciding, hey I am going to be a human trafficker because the risk is relatively low, and the rewards are high. If you can reduce their potential reward, then some of them are going to start saying the risk is too high to do. So, you will drive traffickers out of business as well as reduce the overall number of victims. So, it should lead to a virtuous cycle of reduction of human trafficking. So, looking specifically at sex trafficking and we will go through this real quick, this is my little graph, and the subcommittee is not agreed to this. This is basically a conceptual map. Idea is that we will come up with something better, but what I am trying to show with this is looking at the sex industry or the sex trade in general, the sex trade is comprised of many different things not just sex trafficking but there is also prostitution or sex work. There is telephone sex, online sex and chatrooms, there is pornography, there is stripping live form, live performances, fetish services etc. and even more. And all these together form an overall sex industry. They are interconnected and we realize that human trafficking can take place at any one of those industries, I did them in levels of exploitation in a sense going down, but I don't want to get to that as much. The idea is that the sex trade is very broad and lots of entry points potentially for trafficking and exploitation. All of this is set up just like a normal supply and demand model like we talked about before. How do we reduce this? Just as an aside I would be looking for images, I put a lot of images into my presentations to make them appealing. This is literally, you can go on amazon or something and buy for your house. This is a neon sign that you can buy for like \$75.00 and put up in your house somewhere. I am just trying to imagine the kind of person who puts this up in their den or their living room. Remember we talked about changing laws and changing social norms or cultural values. One way to do this is by sex buyer education programs or john schools. They look at the Attorney General's guidebook on how to set up, run a john school or sex buyer education program. It is good and covers a lot of different details and of course by law now it is mandated for all the counties to have a sex buyer education program. That is Franklin County. These people were all convicted in a sex buyer sting.

Individuals talking to the johns need to be influencers, coaches, business owners, celebrities. People in positions of power and authority who are saying this is unacceptable behavior to shift that culture. This is an interesting approach, by BEST-Businesses Ending Slavery Trafficking in Seattle. It spread to a lot of other places. Talking about businesses again, as a potential demand reduction strategy, sex and it could be labor trafficking as well. Some businesses have specifically put anti-commercial sex buying policies in their HR policies. It is not just implied; it is explicitly stated in the policies. It states very clearly that if you are an employee of this company, you can get fired for using your computer to view sexual material, if you are on a business trip and you stop in a hotel on a business trip, you purchase commercial sex you can be fired. So really spelling it out clearly in the HR policy. It is not tolerated in that business. I think it is a pretty cool approach. Now looking at labor very quickly, when we look at labor some

people only think like service sector or service industry, something being done. We think of labor trafficking your thinking about people working in landscaping or housekeeping being subjected to domestic servitude. That is probably the common type of labor trafficking in the US. We are learning more about egg farms, chicken processing plants right here in Ohio and across the United States as a source of labor trafficking. The thing to think about is if it is a good service industry there is a supply chain, a value chain associated with that. Human trafficking can permeate any supply chain. It can start with raw materials like coffee, chocolate is an easy one. Most chocolate is produced in west Africa in Ghana or the Ivory Coast. We know that there is forced child labor that is involved in a lot of this chocolate, cocoa bean farming. Large scale farms and those beans are sold to middlemen who then sell them to the big corporations that are globally trading. So, Hershey's has chocolate cocoa beans produced by child slaves in the production of their candy bar. So, every time you buy one of those candy bars you are supporting this exploitation of forced labor, child labor in west Africa. So, we must start thinking and shifting that way. Human trafficking that we want to reduce is not just happening in Ohio and in the United States, but it is in the supply chains of goods and services we buy in Ohio or that Ohio itself buys. I am not going to explain all of this but if you have not looked every year or every couple of years the US Department of Labor puts out a report. It is very descriptive, but not very creatively titled "Goods Produced by Child Labor Report." It looks at all major commodities and countries around the world and it lists all the major goods. It's goods from 77 different countries that the US Department of Labor says are produced whole or in part by exploitative or child labor. These goods or services come to the United States. So, what can we do about it? One thing you can do is once again have a procurement policy or your purchasing policy and you can add if your company does not already have that, most big corporations have a code of conduct for vendors or suppliers. These are basically where you can put values up front for vendors that are trying to sell products to your companies. Very few companies control every step of that supply chain. Almost none do. They buy things. One of my favorite examples is NIKE. NIKE produces nothing. Everything, every shoe they sell is produced by a subcontractor supplier. So, they buy everything. They buy materials, they buy shoes, they buy all the stuff and put them all together. They market it and sell their image. Provide value for things. So, they even had a strong supplier code of conduct to make sure they are not purchasing things that are being produced by forced labor or child labor. Check out Patagonia. I am not sure you are aware that Patagonia is a very ethical and environmentally sustainable company. They produce outdoors and gear, coats and all kinds of things. They are really one of the gold standards for a supplier code of conduct. You can see all these things are covered in their code of conduct. Covered all the way from the farm to the mine, to the production of the raw materials to every step of the process until it is sold in a store with the Patagonia label. It is not just the private sector. The public sector has really got to get involved. Now at the National level, the United States has strong acquisition regulations. Federal acquisition regulations and the Defense (DAR) Defense Acquisition Regulations prohibit acquisition of products by forced or indigenous child labor for products bought by the US. Anything bought by the US government. The Department of Defense or Attorney General, even

every ink pen, every tire jack and everything in between must go through these regulations. State governments don't have these regulations. Only a handful of US states have state level regulations on how their purchases ensure that they don't have trafficking in the production. Ohio does not have this. I think Ohio should consider adopting language in their procurement regulations and other states as well. The idea is to leverage public buying power. You have these strong regulations and all the billions of dollars that are spent in states and states governments will be buying from good actors, good corporations who do not have trafficking in their supply chains. So, it starts rewarding them, they start getting a bigger share of the market and it starts forcing the bad actors out of the industry and it forces out essential charges of hypocrisy. That finishes, this goes where we started like in general the whole world in government down to us. You need to think about especially as anti-human trafficking advocates, think about where your goods and products are coming from. Think about your purchasing decisions. A lot of people basically say: "Shop your values". I think that is a good thing. I know some of these things are more expensive, we are not trying to be elitist. You can also rent or use secondhand purchase things so there is no one to re-exploited in the purchase. Look for things like fair trade or direct trade. Lots of different certifications on your purchases and basically the idea is to just be an informed consumer. I tell people to have one luxury purchase. Coffee, tea, chocolate and make that something that is ethical because that purchase is a luxury versus a necessity. It is hard for me to see coffee as a necessity. So, think about that, do that research and buy ethically. We want to really emphasize that this is not a silver bullet. It is not the solution to human trafficking. This is one part of a comprehensive approach to reducing the demand of human trafficking. We also have everything else everyone is working on that is critical and key. There is no single silver bullet. But I think reducing demand is key to reducing the overall scope and scale of the problem of human trafficking. Does Deb or Kirsty have anything to add or anyone else from the committee that wants to add?

Deb: Nothing from me, you did a great job.

Thanks Deb.

Linda Powers: There are people asking to get a copy of the PowerPoint in the chat.

That is fine with me.

Deb Tabor: We are still working on it; I don't have a problem with sharing it.

Linda Powers: I can go ahead and send that out if it is okay with Tony and Tony wants it sent.

That's okay with Deb too and if Kirsty is still on if she does not have any reservations. I don't think anyone else from the committee is on.

Kirsty Mouncey: No, I think that is important information to share.

Linda Powers: Thank you so much Tony. Any other questions?

Can I have one question for everyone?

Linda Powers: Sure

Does this seem to make sense to folks? Is it communicating clear enough?

From the chat: Do you have research or samples from other States or countries on sex trafficking? What the outlook looks like.

As far as I know, no one has done at a government level comprehensive demand reduction approach in a sense. Some countries do demand reduction for sex trafficking but basically it is prostitution control policy, and you can think of Sweden is a great example. There is the Nordic model, the quality model where they, that's where Ohio has taken that way by separating prostitution and solicitation into two different charges. Buying and selling sex and making the more extreme charge the purchase of sex and the lesser charge is the selling. In the Nordic, they decriminalize the sale of sex but still have strong penalties for the purchase of sex and for organizing prostitution or compelling prostitution. So, the idea is to shift, reduce the demand for purchase. Many countries, especially the US are leading, the UK and France have looked at increasing their government purchasing guidelines to reduce labor trafficking. I saw videos where the federal government for trying to shift their acquisition. In the UK they really push the modern slavery act and try to push it out to all businesses within the UK as well. Must have a strong policy what they are doing to reduce human trafficking in their supply chain. In the US only the state of California has something called the transparency supply chain act which has been around for quite a while. Ten years or more. It basically says all businesses that do business in corporations that do business in California or are headquartered in California, every big company in the world must have a statement that says what they are doing to reduce forced labor or child labor in their supply chain. Even if that statement says we don't do anything. We don't have that in our supply chain. But that must be public. Consumers can look at that and it will help consumers make an informed purchasing decision. So, there has been no Country or state that done a fully comprehensive approach on both sex and labor trafficking.

Emily Dunlop: I would just like to chime in and say thank you. I did have some feedback on some of the images in the presentation. I know you all have spent so much time working on this and building this. I appreciate it. I would love those images maybe revisited, there is a lot of guidance on what images we are using in our training materials. Some imagery in our training materials need to be changed. Thank you, Linda, for accepting that feedback, I really appreciate it. Also encouraging folks that want to learn more about some of those Nordic model and demand strategy there is a lot of research about the effectiveness and ineffectiveness and honestly about those models and compiled a pretty solid review from a couple of years ago. So, I know we are all trying to figure out what is best to implement demand and we can all learn from all the other places. We are all trying to figure this out too, so I appreciate it.

Linda Powers: Thank you, Emily. Anyone else have anything constructive to talk about the PowerPoint? Thank you, Tony, we greatly appreciate you presenting today. Tony had approached me about having this training, I thought it was a great idea and I am throwing it out to the Chairs as well members that are out there if they would like to present in a similar smaller type training like Tony had produced today, we can go ahead and discuss. Please don't hesitate to contact us because I think it is valuable because a lot of us can't attend some of the training we are doing in other parts of the state. So, we don't know what other members are putting out there, so we would be happy to entertain anyone if they would like to come in and put a training course on. So, thank you Tony for bringing this idea to the Commission and we really appreciate it.

Subcommittee updates:

Health Care-Chair Heather Wilder:

Do you want me to go to everything we did this year?

Linda Powers: Just the highpoints for 2023 because Health Care was productive this year.

Highpoints for the year. We started off the year in March when we had our press conference with Attorney General Yost on some videos we were working on. Some committee members assisted. Videos to train hospitals and medical schools, nursing schools and that is going well. One of the highpoints for 2023 for me I think was the Healthcare Subcommittee was awarded the Love Award at the three levels of greatness gala. And the award was fantastic, and Linda was going to give it to AG Yost. But my favorite part of being at the gala was all three of our ambassadors were there, Linda was there, and we just got to hang out together which we don't really get to do much. And we danced and we had just had a great evening. And it was really, fun. We worked on it throughout the year, we developed a similar video on labor trafficking. And in this video a man came to the ER, the nurse provided care, got him alone and those kinds of things. He would not accept anything from the nurse, which is very much reality. We are working on a debriefing guide and discussing what that would look like. The other thing we did, we recently shot another video involving EMS. It was Cleveland, so I did not get to see it shot. It was when EMS comes to the house, they go in the house, there are other people and what does that look like. I think that is going to be an amazing video. I haven't seen it yet as other members of the team are working on that. Annette the Ambassador was there to make sure that everything was shot with the voice of a survivor. In the end of 2023, we welcomed a new Ambassador Survivor with Nancy Hashman, so we are excited to have her on our team. Quickly the things we are hoping to do in 2024 is we recently thought we were done with videos and just with some of the conversations we have had with our subcommittee one of the things we are looking at doing it something along the lines of a young male when he is ready to disclose and goes to a counselor or something like that and the counselor doesn't really believe him or says you are a male why did you not do such and such and kind of shuts him off. So, some of the things you said about males, and we maybe can incorporate some of that stuff. This is a real-life scenario from one of our survivors. I think that will be something we will talk about further. The other thing that was just discussed at our

last meeting is possibility, I don't know if it will be a scenario or maybe some discussion around child survivors and parents. I am not quite sure how that is going to work out. I am excited to see how this idea will develop. That was the healthcare subcommittee.

JP Riguid - Law Enforcement:

The subcommittee meets quarterly. Primarily its goals are to discuss each of the individual agency's cases, some of the trends and maybe any concerns that we may have. In a sense of highlights for 2023 we would have to say the highlights of the September/October Buyers Remorse Operations. Those are directed by the Attorney General and by OOCIC. Those are independent of our task force of our subcommittee that yet that is something we are all doing together. I believe if you see any of the articles or the video of the different operations it is over 160 arrests throughout the state. When I was co-chair with Matt Hilbert that was one, we can clearly say as a subcommittee that we can speak to. There are too many groups that we can speak about the specific cases that have been handled or are presently being investigated. So that is what we focused on. We can say for statistics there have been human trafficking victims recovered from the task forces have been 150; potential victims linked to service 430; tips received again a coalition of all our task forces through OOCIC 750 tips. That's our 2023 summary. Primary goals for 2024 besides meeting quarterly. And our quarterly meetings are not attended as well as we want them to, it's just clear that our task forces are in a whole different mode at the time when we schedule a meeting. We are working on trying to better that timing of meetings. We meet quarterly and what we want to focus on is developing a training presentation for law enforcement to be implemented. Like what Tony did and his team of a small presentation from an existing already presentation that we can use for other smaller and larger jurisdictions. That is one of our primary goals for 2024.

Linda Powers on behalf of Victim Services: The Chairs want to remind everyone, and I sent a blurb out that their highlight for 2023 was getting the Victim Service Directory up and running.

Demand Reduction- Chair Tony Talbott:

Essentially, we have divided into three different working groups, under which over about a year of literature reviews, discussions, consultations on demand reduction we have a pretty extensive bibliography of resources of looking at demand reduction and came up with a smattering of examples which I put into the program. Example types of demand reduction put policies and activities. We then divided into three working groups on the white paper as looking at a conceptualization of demand reduction, the first part of the white paper and then there is a section on instruction for sex trafficking and reduction for labor trafficking. So, those are the three working groups. I managed to get a handful of interns from the University of Dayton to engage in this process. They are going to start in January doing additional literature review, putting things together and helping with this whole process of putting the paper together. As Emily's comments pointed out this is a complicated process and there are a lot of things that you think will be a good approach in demand and cause inadvertent harm. And our whole idea is

reducing harm and not inadvertently causing harm. There is a lot of complicated evidence from the national models to look at. We must see how many different types of approaches which is the most effective approach. Accomplishing not controlling prostitution but reducing the demand for human trafficking. Which is where our real focus is somewhat different from the national contexts. What's happening in Sweden isn't exactly analogous to what is happening in the United States. What is happening in Australia and New Zealand is not what is analogous to what is happening here or in Amsterdam. The short of it, what we have discovered is there are no good approaches to reach this human trafficking. We can tell by the latest International Labor Trafficking Report that show modern slavery, their terminology that includes human trafficking and forced marriage increases over the past five years. We have clear data now for sure that human trafficking is increasing. More victims globally, prevalence of human trafficking is increasing around the globe. So, we are still doing a lot of research, but the idea is that the white paper, after the white paper is done the production of detailed training materials that reference that in train the trainer materials as well.

Public Awareness-Lara Wilken:

Hello everyone. Happy to be here and learn about all this amazing work everyone is doing. For public awareness subcommittee-one of our big highlights from last year that you all would have received was that we created the public awareness human trafficking impact survey. We had that sent out to everyone. We do ask because there may be members from the subcommittee who are on the entire commission who, we ask the chairs to make sure that they send that out to your entire committee because what we are hoping to gain from the survey is to highlight the incredible events being done by the members. It was great that Tony presented today because that was an example of the education that is being done in the State of Ohio and we are really excited about the survey because it is going to give us a good understanding, not only of the remarkable work being done to raise awareness but the areas in state that are lacking communication. With that being said, the survey to be completed by December 31, 2023. Our hope is that once we have that data we can sit down and really evaluate where this work is being done and create a map of the State of Ohio, not only where the work is being done but where it needs to be done. So that is one of our big projects we are super excited about. Another project we have been working on over the last year was Youth 101 Best Practices Guidelines. I know that there are a lot of people wanting to raise awareness and we know that their intentions may be good but maybe their understanding, for imagery and language to look like in presentations might not always be what is survivor informed. Our idea was to be a best practice guideline as a tool for those wanting to give presentations. They could look to this resource that their imagery and everything is trauma informed. With that, we are excited to say that demand reduction as well as the victim's services subcommittees, they were reviewers for us, sex trafficking and labor trafficking survivors were reviewers of that document as well and our goals for this year will be looking forward to finalizing our best practice guidelines so the same thing for the HT 101, we created one specifically for youth presentations. We are also hoping this group moving forward

will create a library resource. This was something Mary Kate brought up at our last meeting with the subcommittee. The idea is that we will have a library resource online that will have serious items online regarding searches for videos, documents like the ones I just described that anyone can utilize to create presentations and awareness, or they just want to educate themselves. The thing I would like to say about public awareness is we are small, but we are mighty. We have some passionate, amazing people on this subcommittee that I learn from every time that I am with them. We are really excited to have Kwami, Christine, and Haleigh be members of our team. They are just wonderful, and we can learn so much from them regarding human trafficking from their lived experiences.

Legal & Legislative:

Hi everyone, my name is Samantha Salomon. For legal and legislative at the beginning of this year we had three main goals. The goals were (1) educating youth in our schools and talking about awareness and education (2) linked with the Expungement Bill again because we are still trying to push that through; and (3) dealing with housing/homelessness issues. These were three areas we were quite passionate about from the beginning. As it pertains to educating children in schools or youth in schools, the bill that a lot of people know is Erin's law. It is two pieces of law in the Ohio Revised Code. There are two different sections related to it. We have been looking at both those sections and kind of dissecting it and figuring it out, what are some positives/negatives and then trying to implement some things. As a summary for anyone that may not be familiar with what Erin's Law is, it was passed I believe in April of this year and to go into effect this school year-August 2023. What it is educate in areas such as child abuse, sexual harassment, sexual assault in an age appropriate. The idea is that there is essentially a two-part process, one is that teachers were supposed to get educated by the prosecutors or law enforcement and the second part is that teachers were supposed to discuss and have these conversations with their children in their classrooms. There are some significant issues that were pointed out by some from our committee that pertain to this new law. Probably the most impactful thing to make note of is that there are no teeth to this bill or these pieces of legislation. They are very jurisdictional specific; these jurisdictions do their own thing however they want to do their own thing. There is very little uniformity behind it and again at the end of the day jurisdictions can completely negate or look over this and not do anything and there are no consequences to it. There are different modules the Ohio Department of Education gave out for free to districts that they can use. There is a small portion as it pertains to human trafficking. We really wanted to utilize this law to raise awareness around human trafficking in our schools. The main thing we have been doing is getting online with these laws and seeing what we can do to enhance it. We are in the process of figuring out amending the current law or create a new law. That is someone that can help champion that initiative from our legislatures. That is the main thing we have been focusing on as it pertains to children and educating our youth. Some different things as it pertains to the expungement bill, there is some new news. There is a potential bill that is being passed and there are varied initiatives that are going on in conversations. I am not sure

whether right now there is an actual draft of the new piece of legislation that we are going to be trying to propose and who exactly is the one proposing it. I know the AG's office was looking at it. There have been some other private citizens and entities involved in this. Hopefully that is going to be our initiative, kind of pushing that through. For those of you not familiar and were not happy with the present expungement bill. There is an expungement bill presently. It is limited to three predicate offenses and these offenses are solicitation, prostitution or loitering. As any of you are aware, a lot of survivors of human trafficking have been, many additional charges are directly associated with their trafficker, but they cannot get those expunged. This new bill we are trying to propose, we tried doing this last general assembly, it did not go through. We are really hoping we can get this through at the end of the year. Again, there is a lot of give and take or to expand the offenses that would qualify for expungement under Ohio law. That is something else going on and as it pertains to homelessness. As some of you are aware there has been a lump sum of money that has been allocated to the Governor's office as it pertains to Human Trafficking Survivors. For those in the non-profit world and RFP given out by the Governor's Office for services for human trafficking survivors. It is that pot of money this is coming from. A portion of that money has been given out the Ohio Domestic Violence Network and the idea was that you have domestic violence shelters already in existence to give money to shelters to open their doors to human trafficking survivors. This is a very cost shield move that a lot of people are concerned with. The biggest concern that a lot are concerned working in this area have been that the education background of workers in violence shelters and whether they are educated in the type of services that are needed for human trafficking survivors as opposed to domestic violence and sexual assault survivors. We are looking at that and seeing how potentially we can work with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network to see one, whether they are opening their own RFP or the shelters that they have and whether there can be some requirements for training. Lara, that might be something very beneficial for looking at your HT 101 types of training that you guys are developing to figure out if we can utilize that for these individuals. But I wanted to bring awareness about this for two reasons, a lot of us are in coalitions throughout the state of Ohio and knowing that there is a lump sum of money that is given out to various domestic violence shelters around it would probably be beneficial to really start collaborating with Domestic Violence Shelters. Getting them involved with your coalitions and seeing if they need any additional training so that we can make sure that all the shelters that are in existence that may be getting monies to opening their doors to trafficking survivors that they are a little more educated and prepared. So that would be the first reason we are looking at this. The second reason that I am telling you this is that this opens the doors for labor trafficking survivors as well. Currently, I think a lot of people can agree that there is a significant lack of shelters for labor trafficked survivors. Part of this money that would be distributed by the Domestic Violence Network would include labor trafficking survivors as well. So, this opens the potential for housing of labor trafficking survivors. This is what we have been going forward with for the next year. We have heard there has been some discussion and passion about getting youth more involved in our initiatives. Making sure their voices are heard and educating them, but we are also in need of

having their voice heard as well. We are looking at pieces of legislation geared more towards labor trafficking and another emphasis on male survivors as well. Obviously, Kwami and his initiative, we have great representation of other male survivors that we want to make sure we are hearing their voices, and we can potentially enhance to make sure we are protecting male survivors.

Ambassador Annette Mango had a question: One of my questions is that this money that is being used to help to open for the survivors, is any of this money designated towards hiring survivors for work in this field to work with them? And my second question is that the expungement that some of us have what we got when, as far as say you have a possession, they put on you, you cannot handle a firearm. Does all this count for that? Do you work with that too?

When it comes to the lump sum of money that is given to the Ohio Domestic Violence Network, I am not privy to know as to what their requirements are going to be in terms of what their RFPs are going to give out to have people apply for the grant. I don't know what that will encompass, that is why we should proactively talk to them to make sure we are, that survivors' voices are going to be heard and that there is going to be adequate training. But I do not have authority to make sure that happens. That is something that is on the radar though. In terms of expungement, it is difficult for me to be transparent, it is difficult to answer any questions because there is nothing written down, solidified as to what it going to be expanded upon to include. I don't feel comfortable answering that question just because I don't have the actual bill in front of me.

Co-Chair Kristy Mouncey, Research, Data & Gap Analysis:

Gap Analysis is not the most exciting thing, but I am happy to report that we have made some great strides to get better data in our state which we are lacking. We are also not alone, that is an issue across our nation. I am here representing the committee with my co-chair Jen Tabor who I don't think is here today. I am happy to Rosario on the call, and I hope when I get the high-level update and maybe Rosario will give us a little update of what's been going on regarding this project. The high level of this committee, that based on the report that the committee submitted to AG Dave Yost last year about the lack of prevalence data in Ohio. Dave Yost assembled an advisory group consisting of our subcommittee and other researchers across the state as well and well and he listened to our recommendations needed for various reasons, and he submitted some funding for a pilot project so that we could study such data. The workgroup worked several months to get recommendations and from those recommendations a pilot project has been funded in Lucas County with the University of Toledo to start that research. I am hoping that Rosario can take over and tell us a little bit about what has been happening so far and how it is going.

Rosario: I conducted a focus group of Ambassador Survivors, and I am so grateful to them for what they shared, their life experiences as we start to develop the adult screening tool. Also, I conducted a focus group of experienced survivors with ten years plus and we came up with a focus adult screening tool after eleven or twelve versions. We ended up getting the right wording across and the screening tool is divided into demographics and there are seventeen questions

screening for high risk, one to eleven. And then twelve to seventeen screening for human trafficking. We are looking at labor trafficking, sex trafficking, familial trafficking and online trafficking. In addition, our youth focus group is being improved. The two of them are going to go hand and hand at the institute. We have already procured five MOUs with NGOs in Lucas County and those agreements were made. They have already passed the first phase. We submitted the IRB approval for the study on October 28, 2023. It is still in the review, so we are just waiting to start.

HTI Updates: Linda

Regarding HTI updates we have going on. The Summit, we have listened and when individuals were telling us, we normally have the Summit the 3rd week of January and individuals were plain tired, I think at that point in time in terms of all the trafficking things going on in the month of January. So, we are moving the Summit to August. We are excited about that because Human Trafficking happens all year round and we are going to have the summit then for two reasons. We have a lot of individuals excited from northern parts of Ohio and from southern parts of Ohio that were precluded from coming because of the weather the way it was. We are always talking about the fact that we need to work collaboratively and not in silos. What we were doing when we were having everything was virtual for those individuals, they were in their homes or in their offices and watching it on video. They are in a silo essentially. People that I have talked to from both areas are extremely excited because the weather will not preclude them from coming down and making connections. I have three proposals for places and dates. We are still leaving it in central Ohio because it is easier for everyone to come down or up to Columbus. I am staffing right now. We have an offer that went out and that is pending right now. We are looking at staffing the other position as well. We are getting there with HTI, so those are the big updates that we have with HTI. Gwen would like to address the commission.

Gwen England: Really quickly, Catch Court graduation is coming up this Friday. Typically, this is an invitation only event just because we must be conscious of numbers and venue size etc. But we want to open it up to everyone now. So, if there is standing room only there standing room only but we wanted to throw a party to celebrate these awesome women that are graduating the program. So, it is this Friday at 11:00 a.m. at the Statehouse. If you can attend this, please come and join us, especially if you have a hand with their success. The Salvation Army has had a hand with Catch. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. This Friday, 11:00 a.m. at the Statehouse in the Atrium is where the ceremony will be held.

Upcoming Trainings & Developments:

Michelle: I would love to share that we are officially in the process of opening Harriett's Hope which is a 52-apartment community for survivors in central Columbus. It is a collaborative effort and Beacon 360 Management is the owner and operator of the space which is getting close to being done. We are hoping people can move in, in theory, by the end of December if everything goes well. The Salvation Army's role will be onsite peer led management and Stephanie Rollins

will be the onsite manager at Harriett's Hope and the intake funnel. I realize relocating if you are not located in central Ohio is not necessarily the best move but if you have folks that are appropriate to move, or you just want to talk about it. Or if you know someone that might be a fit, please reach out, I would love to connect and explain more about it.

Maria: We have a request for proposals that we are releasing probably September 18, 2023. Maybe I can send it to you Linda and you can blast it out. It will be through the office of Criminal Justice Services and the Governor Human Trafficking Task Force, and it will go toward funding any direct services for victims of Human Trafficking. So, it will be broad. There is going to be a huge list of allowable activities and services. If it is a direct service, it will be allowable. That is going to come out September 18, 2023, and there will be like a "bidders training webinar" that will be included in that RFP so you can come and ask questions about the actual application. More information on that.

Samantha:

One of the many hats that I wear is that I am the chair of the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking. One thing that we wanted to do; we keep hearing there is talk about collaboration. But it doesn't stop with just this group. It permeates throughout all my work. One thing I recognize is Ohio having so many coalitions, a lot of them doing their own thing, one thing I wanted to do was get all northeast Ohio pulled in together to have a conference every single year. We are implementing it this year. The conference is going to be in Akron and there are 6 different coalitions that are associated with the conference. It is all about demand reduction and Tony is going to be our keynote speaker for that presentation. We are going to have a survivor panel; we are going to talk about the latest raids that JP talked about earlier and understanding the collaboration between law enforcement and the victim service agencies. We are going to have a presentation on sextortion. It is going to be awesome. It will be a full-day conference and we are applying for CEUS and potentially CLES. Linda, I can send you out the save the date. October 20, 2023, it will be a full day event in Akron.

The next meeting will be the 1st Quarter HTC on March 11, 2024, at the Mt. Carmel Healthy Living Center. Thank you to all the new members that joined us today. I hope you find the meeting eye open and join us in the future as well as find a subcommittee that may interest you.