



HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2021 | 2-4 PM

1. Welcome and Introduction by HTI – Jennifer Rausch, Jomel Aird and Emily Billman
 - a. Jen Rausch welcomed the group and introduced the new name for the Advisory Council as the “Advisory Council Ambassadors”.
2. Advisory Council Updates
 - a. Stephanie Rollins stated the Ambassadors have a passion to be involved and are ready to work with the subcommittees.
 - b. Vanessa Perkins reported the list of names they considered before they settled on their official name: “Advisory Council Ambassadors.” She asked the Commission to involve the Ambassadors in their efforts as they are working to create a mission statement centered around the work currently being done. Jen Rausch opened it up the group to connect with Vanessa and the Ambassadors. Tony Talbott asked for the ambassadors to be involved as they create recommended policies related to demand. His subcommittee is specifically looking at the concept of decriminalization for sellers and additional penalties for buyers, with the minimization of victimization in mind.
 - c. The HTI team will set-up connections between each subcommittee chair and the Advisory Council Ambassadors. They will also send out the master Commission contact list to all members with the meeting minutes.
3. Subcommittee Updates – Group
 - a. Demand Reduction Subcommittee – Tony Talbott
 - i. Tony Talbott explained the Demand Reduction Subcommittee is working on the content for the Demand Reduction Webinars they will be launching with the HTI Team.
 - b. Health Care Subcommittee – Ruth Downing
 - i. Ruth Downing explained the Health Care Subcommittee pilot data project which will be used to collect trafficking data from three separate hospitals in Ohio. They are seeking feedback from any of the Commission members on the types of questions they should include for the hospitals to use.

- ii. They meet the first Tuesday of every month at 10 AM if anyone would like to join.
- c. Law Enforcement Subcommittee – Det. Aaron Dennis
 - i. Detective Dennis explained all three task forces were able to obtain FETI training, which completed one of their 2020 goals. It took three weeks to get the training done and they have been using it for the interviews they have been conducting and have seen results.
 - ii. Jen Rausch thanked JP Rigaud with the Mahoning Valley Task Force for suggesting the training for the task forces.
 - iii. Detective Dennis thanked Sgt. Hess and Deputy Chief Knight for putting together a human trafficking officer liaison training. This is a training being offered to 20 patrol officers who will receive in-depth training designed to be a force multiplier. They are hoping this program will be expanded to other areas of the state in the future.
 - iv. The subcommittee is also focusing on the gaps in legislation and statutes in Ohio that affect social service agencies and the juvenile justice system. They want to identify the laws that are allowing victims to slip through the cracks and not be properly identified.
- d. Legal & Legislative Subcommittee – Samantha Salamon, Senator Fedor
 - i. This subcommittee now has two different working groups. Samantha Salamon is leading the legal working group and Senator Fedor is leading the legislative group.
 - ii. Samantha stated they are focusing on legal training, specifically Safe Harbor training for the court systems. Magistrate Blair has expertise in Safe Harbor and is a major player in this effort. They also met with the Minnesota Safe Harbor Team to learn from them as they are relatively advanced in their efforts.
 - iii. The working group also wants to focus on how victims of trafficking are being identified in the courts or other programs. They are looking at the different types of questionnaires the courts are utilizing and want to standardize these. Rebekkah O’Bryan mentioned in the chat the Ohio Department of Youth Services has developed a screening tool that they use in their facilities. Amy LaGessee provided information about the Youth Screening tool the FOCUS on Runaways Project uses with the courts.
 - iv. Chelsea Golterman explained the legislative working group is working on expanding expungement records for victims of trafficking. Senator Fedor is currently working with a co-sponsor to move the bill forward. The

working group is asking for input from other subcommittees on any legislative ideas or policies that need to be addressed in the General Assembly. She also mentioned they would like to work with Tony Talbott on the demand side for a demand reduction bill.

- e. Public Awareness Subcommittee – Bhumika Patel, Amy LaGessee
 - i. Amy LaGessee explained the Public Awareness Subcommittee has created a “Human Trafficking Training and Public Awareness Quick Reference Guide for Coalitions.” It will contain information on what is trafficking, the difference between training and awareness, public awareness do’s and don’ts, common myths and resources.
 - ii. She and Bhumika are stepping down as co-chairs and are working with the rest of the subcommittee to nominate new chairs to take over.
- f. Research/Data & Gap Analysis Subcommittee – Christi Bartman, Jesse Bach
 - i. Jesse Bach reported they spent last year gathering information from various organizations and governmental agencies. They have found there is a large amount of information out there and it appears to be in no discernable format. They are beginning to compile the information, with a focus on the information and databases that exist to help better standardize and streamline the data we currently have. They will be putting together the report and recommendations for the AG office.
- g. Victim Service Subcommittee – Michelle Hannan, Kelli Cary
 - i. Kelli Cary explained the Victim Service Subcommittee has completed the update for the service standards. They are ready to send the standards out to all Ohio coalitions and providers. The HTI team will be disseminating the standards to these groups within the next few weeks.
 - ii. The subcommittee is working with the HTI and AG ITS teams to develop the Victim Services Matrix. This will be a website that is accessible from the Attorney General’s main website and will have searchable functions. Organizations who meet the Victim Services Standards will be listed on this website and it will cover the entire state.
 - iii. The next steps for the subcommittee are to improve the response to labor trafficking. Samantha Salamon is leading this effort. Kelli would like to work with Amy LaGessee and the Public Awareness Subcommittee on labor trafficking materials so they do not reinvent the wheel.
 - iv. The OSU Social Work department is assisting the subcommittee with several of their projects and will publish research if possible.

4. General HTI updates – Jennifer Rausch, Jomel Aird, Emily Billman

a. Summit 2021

- i. Emily Billman recapped the 2021 Human Trafficking Summit. There were 1450 attendees, and despite some technical difficulties in the morning the Summit went smoothly and we received great feedback. We hope to have a virtual aspect even if the conference is in-person next year.
- ii. Jen Rausch told the group we do not have the final numbers for the Ambassador Compensation Fund, but once HTI has the numbers we will discuss next steps with the Commission.

b. Collaboration – Sen. Fedor’s HT Awareness Summit, Summit County TF training

- i. Jen and Jomel presented at Senator Fedor’s Human Trafficking Awareness Summit and the HTI team participated throughout the week.
- ii. Jen and Jomel trained the new Summit County Human Trafficking Task Force.
- iii. Jomel Aird encouraged the Commission members to continue networking with different subcommittees.

c. OHLEG module updates

- i. Jomel Aird explained the OHLEG updates for law enforcement in Ohio. They are trying to accurately capture sex and labor trafficking. Jen and Jomel have been working on fixing the questions and rewording it to be more user-friendly for the officers and to have more accurate numbers.
- ii. The new module went live on 3/1/21.

d. 2020 Human Trafficking Report

- i. Jen Rausch announced the 2020 Human Trafficking Report will be released in the coming weeks. The final draft is currently being reviewed.

e. Webinars

- i. Jen Rausch announced the HTI team is still working to host a series of webinars. The Demand Reduction Subcommittee would be a good start. They are working with IT and Communications on the logistics.

5. Upcoming Trainings and Developments – Group

- a. Chelsea Golterman is working with Shared Hope International to have them present an in-depth presentation on their state report card to the Legal and Legislative Subcommittee. She will notify the entire Commission of the date, in case anyone else would like to attend.

- b. Katie Congrove introduced herself. She is with Franklin County Children Services and wants to get connected with the LE and Legal and Legislative Subcommittees.
- c. Kirsti Mouncey introduced herself as the new CEO of the Cleveland Collaborative and would love to connect with anyone on the Commission about their efforts.

In attendance:

Amy LaGesse, Ruth Downing, James Mackey, Chelsea Golterman, Jennifer Tscholl, Katie Congrove, Debra Seltzer, Magistrate Jaime Blair, Kelli Cary, Emily Czerniejewski, Greg Colbeck, Carol O'Brien, Christi Bartman, Emily Dunlap, Maria Busch, Veronica Scherbauer, Judge Jodi Thomas, Detective Aaron Dennis, Brandon Harmon, Rebekkah O'Bryan, Tony Talbott, Donna Hoffman, Kirsti Mouncey, Deputy Chief Jennifer Knight, Harold D'Souza, Kathleen Hackett, Joe Chamberlain, Ryn Farmer, Beverly Robinson, Brent Currence, Ann Bischoff, Stephanie Rollins, Vanessa Perkins, Christine Hall, Erin Meyer, Jesse Bach, Larry Mccoy, Matthew Hilbert, Kristina Nicholson, Rosa Beltre, Ryan Emahiser, Steve Irwin, Alicia Wolf, Michele Reali-Sorrell, Samantha Salamon, Maggie Billings, Heather Hill