



HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2020 | 9-11 AM

- I. Welcome and Introduction – Human Trafficking Initiative Team
 - Jennifer Rausch began the meeting with an overview of the agenda and introduction of survivors.
- II. Introduction of Survivors
 - Jomel Aird proceeded to introduce the survivors nominated to the Human Trafficking Commission, explain the vision for their involvement and let them know about a follow up meeting with the Human Trafficking Initiative. Each new member then introduced themselves.
- III. Subcommittee Update – Descriptions of Subcommittees and Project Updates

Victim Services Subcommittee – Michelle Hannan & Kelli Carey

 - Michelle Hannan introduced herself and gave her background. She let the Commission know that by December 31st the revision of the victim service standards will be done. She gave a history of the standards to the survivors by describing that it started in 2009 and has since been updated in 2013, 2017 and now in 2020. They are meeting every other week on Tuesday at 2 for an hour.
 - There is not a lot of homework, but may give homework from time to time. They recently met with the Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime about the service standards updated with the Human Trafficking Initiative team.
 - Kelli Carey introduced herself and gave her background. The Victim Services subcommittee is also working on developing a service matrix in Ohio to identify case management and victim advocacy resources for victims of labor and sex trafficking. They will assign a community leader or coalition leader to make sure there are no gaps/fill those gaps.
 - They are also working to create a self-assessment for the organizations listed on the service matrix to make sure they are meeting all standards. The subcommittee is hoping to have this rolled out by the end of 2021
 - The self-assessment and training for the service standards will be rolled out before the launch of the service matrix. It will hopefully live on the Ohio Attorney General's website so that it can be long sustaining beyond AG Yost's

administration. This sub-group of the Victim Services committee meets bi-weekly every other Friday.

- The full subcommittee meets the last Tuesday of every month at 1 PM.
- They are also hoping to increase their response to labor trafficking throughout the state which will be a main focus at the beginning of 2021.

Public Awareness Subcommittee – Amy LaGesse & Bhumika Patel

- Bhumika Patel introduced herself. The Public Awareness subcommittee is looking to put together a guide for how to engage with local press when it comes to HT. The group wants to come up with strategies or guidelines for our coalitions and social service agencies to guide them in the creation of public awareness materials and stray away from sensationalizing the topic.
- They had a great meeting in August where they met with coalition leaders to pick their brains on the challenges and successes they have had with public awareness.
- They want to create a checklist of what should be in a human trafficking 101 presentation.
- Once they have come up with their general recommendations, they will present them to the Commission members and coalitions to tackle the beast of public awareness.
- The subcommittee meets monthly and sometimes twice a month. They do not currently have a set time. They send a doodle poll out to each person to see what times and dates work best that month.

Research and Gap Analysis Subcommittee – Christi Bartman & Jesse Bach

- The Research and Gap Analysis subcommittee would love survivors to join them as they need their input as they collect data.
- The subcommittee meets the second Wednesday of every month at 2:00pm.
- In between meetings, they do have homework for their members.
- They are focusing on law enforcement, the courts, corrections, labor trafficking and more.
- Their goal is to create a formal report to lay out the data in Ohio to present to the Commission and the AG.

Law Enforcement Subcommittee - Detective Aaron Dennis

- No updates

- This group is closed to LE officials only, but also has occasional meetings that will be open to non-LE officials.

Legal & Legislative Subcommittee – Samantha Salamon & Senator Fedor

- They are reviewing the laws, practical enforcement of those laws and are addressing training concerns.
- They are conducting a legislative review to see where major gaps exist.
- The group is looking to educate the legal side of certain issues such as Safe Harbor
- A major focus currently is looking at expungement laws and creating awareness for SB 13 which will change the human trafficking statute in Ohio to protect victims between the ages of 16 to 18, which will match the federal statute.
- Magistrate Blair state they need survivor perspective to see how these laws have affected them.

Healthcare Subcommittee – Ruth Downing

- Ruth Downing introduced herself and her background. She emphasized that the subcommittee needs the healthcare data in order to drive funding.
- The subcommittee is working with nurses who are in the forensic nursing network to identify patients that they have seen in the past who have been suspected or disclosed as HT victims to help with data. They are emphasizing the importance of confidentiality at the same time.
- This is a huge undertaking. They are hoping to have data that will transfer to other areas of the state.
- The other major focus is on the healthcare response to suspected trafficking, including a trauma informed tool. This looks like a trauma informed triage tool in a healthcare setting.
- Ruth stated that the focus of a forensic nurse when working with a potential victim is not the question you ask, but how you ask it.
- The healthcare subcommittee needs survivors to advise them on how healthcare should respond by letting them know what did/didn't work.
- Dr. Jennifer Tscholl from Nationwide Children's stated that having survivors involved would help the development of healthcare processes. She also said that survivors have their own experiences, both good and bad, within the healthcare system which can help educate hospital employees and frontline providers.

- Ruth welcomes survivors to give this advice and help make this universal across all health care settings. She describes they have members including forensic nurses, EMS coordinators, physicians and more.

Demand Reduction Subcommittee – Tony Talbott

- Tony Talbott introduced himself. He described that human trafficking is ultimately a business. There is a supply and a demand.
- This subcommittee has identified three goals: communication, evidence-based changes and legal/policies changes.
- They are going to run advocacy campaigns and are focused on diversity.
- The subcommittee meets every second Thursday of the month at 2 PM.
- The subcommittee will be creating permanent training materials for basic and advanced human trafficking presentations.

IV. HTI Updates – Human Trafficking Initiative Team

- The Human Trafficking Summit will be virtual. There will be a wide-array of great workshops. We will send an email when the registration link is live.
- The team is working on creating a virtual and multiple- day in person training for law enforcement through OPOTA.
- The team is continuing to update the OHLEG law enforcement human trafficking module.
- They are continuing case work.

General Member updates:

- Tony Talbott received a human rights and social justice award.
- Jill Jackson ODE- policy and reducing harassment intimidation and bullying, training on signs and symptoms of human trafficking.
- Governors team – received a renewal grant for three years – juvenile justice OVC
- There is a teen led prevention work on drug and alcohol prevention and sexual and intimate partner violence which could be good partners for the Commission’s work on human trafficking.