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HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

**OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**MEETING MINUTES September 9, 2024, | 10:00AM-12:00PM**

1. **Welcome and Introduction- Linda Powers**
2. In-person attendees introduced themselves
3. **2024 Human Trafficking Summit update:**
4. Mary Kate Waggoner discussed the evaluation status for the 2024 OAG Human Trafficking Summit.
5. Linda Powers: We had approximately 750 individuals that came in-person which is fantastic because this is the first one that we had post covid that has not been a hybrid, which the Attorney General had indicated that he really did not want to have any more hybrids he wanted to have the contacts and building of contacts. I think the nicest from our staff, communications and publications and has worked on many projects with the Human Trafficking Commission in various parts indicated to me that it felt like it was a family reunion. That people were just, everyone was happy to be there and to talk with one another and so for me that was such a wonderful comment. We also had an individual that was a professional, that is normally not in this area and attended for self-interest and really like the fact that there were so many choices because we had 26 different break-out sessions including the keynote and they were so happy about the fact that there were so many different choices to have with this particular Summit and had sent some of the staff and all of them had attended something different. All of them brought something new back to their staff back at their home offices. So, I think it really went well this year. Hopefully if you have a chance and have not done the evaluations, as Mary Kate indicated, because it is our first year we appreciate any comments negative or positive because we are evaluating how we will be conducting the Summit next year. We are looking at potentially having once again at the Hyatt and hopefully having the same amount pf workshops that we had and addressing the needs of law enforcement, nursing, counselors. All the different professions. We are looking for dates towards the end of July and beginning of August. Please keep that in mind when you are setting up for things. Please let us know if you have not done your evaluation what you thought of the RegFox when you were registering for the Summit. That platform is new to us, and we would really appreciate your feedback on that process.
6. **Advisory Council Ambassador Updates**
7. There were no updates from Ambassadors
8. **Subcommittee Updates:**
9. **Healthcare Subcommittee-Co-Chair Heather Wilder**

Heather Wilder: I talked at the last couple of meetings about the videos that we have made for health care, and we were able to do a breakout at the Summit and it was very successful. I have already received emails from hospitals that want to use the videos on the onboarding process, so we are super excited about that. The next video that we are planning on working on is the video on Human Trafficking and addiction. We haven’t really focused on that one but we know how important that is so that is our plan with that. Meetings, we have had some great conversations about educating physicians. We know some of this stuff they will see, some of videos and stuff like that. We have a lot of nurses as well as physicians on our subcommittee, so we have had some good conversations on how to bring this education to physicians and residents. Finally, what we are working on now is a tool for healthcare agencies to use to identify victims. Something like a sticker that they can put on a urine cup. If they are having any kind of trafficking violence and things like that. We want to take it a step further and provide a “okay what do you do now” because we know that is what is missing. Someone hands you this cup or whatever, but we want to provide next steps that are applicable to rural hospitals and things like that they can adapt those guidelines to meet the needs of their own hospital.

1. **Law Enforcement-Co-Chair Matthew Hilbert**
2. Matthew Hilbert: Good morning. J.P. is not on, so I am going to give a quick update. There is not a ton to report. The taskforces are working on a couple of different demos. New software. We are always super busy. We are excited to get the new tip line up and going through the AG’s office. Some of the task forces are still going to utilize the tip line they have but they are going to be getting the tips that come in the AG’s office that occur within their jurisdictions. That is really all I have for today. If anyone has any questions?
3. Linda Powers: Since we brought up the tip line, Mary Kate would you like to discuss the tip line.
4. Mary Kate Waggoner: We just had a meeting with BCI on Thursday to discuss the current analysts of the tip line as they are going to be housed within BCI, and they will be filtering in all the calls. They have created, essentially a screener to document demographics. Whether it is sex trafficking or labor trafficking and on the HTI network we are really working on the resources if a victim does call in where they are going to be sent to and coordinating each task force is what OCIC is working on to make sure the systems are flowing smoothly. Wea re in addition to, we are not trying to replace anything that has already existed. Today we have a meeting with the national hotline to talk about how that relationship will work as well. We think we will have everything ironed out logistically on our end. Our hope is to put out an information sheet with frequently asked questions for you all since we know there are a lot of questions understandably about this big change that is happening in our coordinated responses and coordination of care and how that fits in. Our hope is that that will be helpful in you all understanding and that you can communicate it down to your teams. That is in progress.
5. Linda Powers: Some of the things that I like to see is maybe that questionnaire or that question and answer page may be placed on our website so that people can access that and see some of their questions being answered. So, we are working on that. One of the things that I am so looking forward to with this tip line is the data that we should be getting from this tip line. Which should make our Data Analysis Gap Subcommittee happy because the discussions raised on Thursday were that Mary Kate and I (HTI) would be getting information monthly from BCI in terms of what calls, and the number of calls coming in. We are working on a screening tool with our partners over at BCI in terms of whether it is going to be sex trafficking, labor trafficking or both. Because the AG really wants to hit on labor trafficking this year. It will give us an idea of what is happening on cases, when they come through BCI, whether the dispatch at BCI, they will go ahead and let us know whether the cases are, where they are going, whether they are going to OCIC taskforces with Matthew and Rocky, whether they are deferring them to local law enforcement entities and we should be able to track whether those cases are open, closed, held in abeyance if it is not the appropriate time right now in terms of a victim or a survivor wanting to be active on that particular case. We will be able to track some of that data which will be nice to have. That is one of the things we are really looking forward to. Matthew, do you have anything else that you would like to add on the tip line?
6. Matthew Hilbert: No, the task forces are excited to having a central line. They get about 900 tips a year between the seven groups. To hopefully have a centralized system will be good.
7. **Victim Services Subcommittee: No report this reporting period**
8. **Demand Reduction Subcommittee: No report this reporting period**
9. **Public Awareness Subcommittee-Mary Kate Waggoner on behalf of Lara Wilken:**

Lara had to hop off for another meeting. She wrote me this lovely script with updates because Lara is always on the ball. She is so organized. I will be trying to fill her shoes today for public awareness. Our first project is our HTI 101 Best Practices for Community and Youth are both on the HTI website. We just had someone reach out to us wanting to know a little more about the youth specific document and how we can implement that and so Lara and Tracy went and presented to that group on the document and explained our intention behind the document and how they could bring this into education school systems in their community. So that was exciting to see. There has been positive feedback about the document. They felt it was really user friendly and very helpful. The subcommittee is growing. We have several Ambassador Survivors and folks from the organizations around the state joining our public awareness subcommittee. One of our Ambassador Committee members, Kwami, I don’t know if Kwami in on today. He has invited the public awareness subcommittee to join him at the Not for Sale Freedom Walk which is hosted by Walsh University. This is the first time we will be partnering with the Red Sand Project which for those of you who are not aware, is an art project where red sand is placed in sidewalk cracks and Walsh is going to provide a drone. It is an awareness raising event and they provide red sand to different entities that want to engage in that awareness. So, we are partnering with them. The event is on September 28, which is a Saturday from 9:00 to 12:00. It is open invitation for anyone that wants to attend. I think it is going to be a meaningful event. Lara has generously partnered with an organization to create and online store that has t-shirts for the event. If you want a t-shirt, email Lara and I will put all of this in an email as well so you know exactly who to sent that to. It is only going to be open for a short period of time since the event is coming up. The only cost would be the shirt to wear the day of the event. Survivor Ambassadors who plan to attend will have a shirt provided to them at no cost. There will be a table for HTI at the event and Lara and Tracy’s initiative at BGSU, the labor trafficking initiative will have a table and if any other organizations are interested in tabling or providing handouts, Tracy and Lara can coordinate that for you as well. In addition to the first public awareness event the subcommittee is in the process of revamping two different documents that currently exist on the HTI website including the “Apps to Watch For” and the “Parents Resource Guide to Protecting Kids When They Go Online”. We know that social media is constantly changing and some of the apps don’t exist anymore. We want to update and including evolving like AI being used in trafficking and gaming and things like that are not really touched on in the existing resources. There are two teams that are reviewing those, and we do have survivors that are peer revieing them. In Lara fashion she included a message of gratitude, and I would like to share it with you all. A quote from Ashely Jude: “You have so much power to bring awareness, prevention and change”.

1. **Legal & Legislative Subcommittee-Chair Samantha Solomon:**
2. Samantha Solomon: Hi everyone, how are you guys? So far updates that have been going on. Legal & Legislation we have been working on, we started this year with 3 main goals. I say this every meeting, but I really want to hone in on. The first goal was to pass the expungement bill. That was signed into law. Very excited about that. What we are focusing on is now the training of and the implementation of the bill. We had our first training session on Friday about it. I think we have probably about 16 to 20 or something in attendance. We had a ZOOM meeting that was, the host was the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking, but we also had members, practitioners, judges on the panel as well to discuss what are hopes are, jurisdictions, how implementation will take place and what this bill means. I think it overall was very good. We had some positives and some negatives in terms of what we need to work on for the next one. But we are focusing more on what we would like ideally to occur with the passage of the new expungement bill. The second goal that we focused on dealing with educating our youth. We really wanted to utilize Erin’s law to do this. Again, after learning and talking to various entities and individuals we have concluded that this law is probably not going to change. So, what are other ways that we can do to implement and standardize to a certain extent some form of educating the children and the staff on the issues of human trafficking. We are talking with the individuals from OAESV-Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, with ONOCK. They are various entities throughout the state. And we are also collaborating with entities that are doing various trainings as proscribed by Erin’s Law. For those of you who are not familiar there are two different provisions of Erin’s Law that are codified into the Ohio Revised Code. One section dealing with training the teachers. The other dealing with the actual education to the children. So, the idea is if we figure out a way that we can make this as easy as possible for the jurisdictions to implement. The hardship about Erin’s Law is that there are no teeth behind it. Meaning if there are no jurisdictions don’t necessarily do it there is no penalty behind it and because it is very jurisdictionally based, we are very home jurisdiction state meaning every jurisdiction can do a lot of their own things we see that a lot of these trainings are changing drastically from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Again, we are trying to develop some sort of model so we can easily hand it to the jurisdictions and make sure that it is at least hitting certain key points. Our third goal was focusing on housing institutions for human trafficking survivors. Whether that is shelters, whether that is recovery centers, there were a lot of issues that we were recognizing in whether making sure all the shelters were trained on human trafficking survivors and making sure the recovery centers were able to identify an individual that might be a human trafficking survivor. I know there were some concerns that were brought up about potential recruitment that occurring in certain entities. We are trying to focus on more is what are these regulations, administrative rules that these entities are abiding by and seeing if there is some way we can implement some more human trafficking training or some training in general. Because there are none with different entities. For the remainder of the year that is what our focus is. That is about it. In 2025 we are going to revamp and set another three goals. But I think that overall, we are doing very well in hitting those 3 goals and making sure we are working on them. I am here if anyone has any questions but other than that, that is the end of my report.
3. Linda Powers: Sam, can I circle back to the training that took place on Friday. Was there a decision that was made whether that training would be available because I know it was recorded.
4. Samantha Solomon: Yes, it is my understanding it will be available. That is kind of up to Kirsti Mouncey and the collaborative to end human trafficking as they were the ones who were facilitating it. But I do know that with the assistance of various other entities such as the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center and the Case Western Human Trafficking Clinic, I know all of them were instrumental. I am not sure who clicked the record button, but it was our understanding that ultimately yes, this would be decimated, and we would offer this again at a bit more specific more towards advocates. But this one was very focused on the bench. Judge Synenberg is our Magistrate and is implementing this new law. But now from an advocacy perspective or from a law enforcement perspective are nuances that we should all be aware of so we can advocate for survivors.
5. Mary Kate Waggoner: We did have a couple of comments in the chat Sam that I just wanted to highlight. Dr. Jackson says for their workgroup addressing Erin’s Law it would be good to she the resources referenced for schools by Public Information Work Group. I think that is our Youth document. So, it might be good to connect on that and Haleigh Young said that some of the trainings that school districts are using for Erin’s Law do have human trafficking built into it which is encouraging.

And going back to the tip line, two questions from Haleigh Young. Does the hotline plan on recording tips about minors to child protective services? I don’t know Matt, do you want to speak into that, or would you like us to speak into that?

1. Matthew Hilbert: I don’t have an answer to that. I know we have looked at some other states’ standard operating procedures and we are going to have a meeting here in a couple of days to figure out how we are going to handle all of that.
2. Mary Kate Waggoner: Amy Lagesse asked will the tip line work with direct service providers in each community? The answer to that question based on our conversations is if a survivor does call in and they need services we have been, as I mentioned compiling resources that are 24 /7 support line that exists nationally and locally. If there is a mental health crisis, we want to connect them with that immediate support and if there is someone in need of basic needs type resources, we have compiled a few different options to direct them to including our Victim Services Directory since we have been working hard on building that up and making sure that all of the folks meet the service standards. We want non-crisis situations where someone may need a basic need to connect victim service providers through that avenue. We are also talking about the hotline as it is a very law enforcement tip line, not like a survivor support line because BCI is not equipped to handle those kinds of calls. We want them to know what to do because we know survivors will call the hotline, so we want to equip them with that basic training and Linda, and I have been asked to come in and train on that crisis piece and resources piece. But that is being communicated. We don’t want survivors to be misinformed and call the hotline and expecting it to be a support line because that is not what it is structured to be. We do not want them to be blindsided that law enforcement is answering that line. I hope that answers your question, Amy.

I don’t think there is anything else in the chat, but I will check. I saw Matthew Hilbert said he will let the group know later this week and thanked Haleigh Young for her question and will there be a presentation about the tipline for the HTI Commission? Absolutely we would love to do that and hand and hand with the information sheet we would love to have some kind of training out there to field any questions and make sure that folks know what is going on and who does the training for the hotline was another question. As of right now Linda and I, the piece we are contributing to the hotline is we have been asked to provide the training and speak to the victims’ resources piece. As of right now that would be us. The National Hotline makes resources available directory and confirms that they are the correct agency to call regarding issues. Is there intention to reach out to the agencies you all intend to include? The victim services directory anyone who is on that would probably be receiving calls from the state hotline if there is a victim in need of a support. But as far as direct referrals we do not necessarily have an internal matrix set up of who does what in what county and that is currently what we could talk about as things progress. But I know right now that has not been part of the conversation.

1. Linda Powers: And remember the emphasis on this hotline is for law enforcement. Those are the tips we are hoping that still survivors are calling in, we are hoping they will use the Polaris line. We are looking at this as being a tip line for anonymous tips coming in from the public at large, and/or law enforcement. We would love law enforcement to utilize the tip line as well. We will be marketing it that way as well so they are encouraged to call in so these calls can be routed to the appropriate law enforcement agencies in terms of investigation of these cases. Did that raise any more comments?

I am going to circle back before I get to Research, Data & Gap Analysis and see if anyone else came back on or joined us from Victim Services. If not, I am just going to encourage anyone that if you have not gone through the standards of care and done the application remember that is open all the time so to get on our victims service directory please fill out those applications if you have not done so and work with victim services if you have received any notification from our office that there might be something that, areas where you haven’t met some of the standards. Please work with victim services staff so that they can go ahead and get you meeting the standards, so that you can be part of the victim services directory. We would love for everyone to be part of it and meet those standards.

1. **Research, Data and Gap Analysis-Kirsti Mouncey**
2. Kirsti Mouncey: I am here Linda. I am excited to be here. I saw Dr. Sanchez on the call, and I know that she will give us a real and good deep-dive update on the data collection project. Our committee has really supported as much as we can to support the work that Dr. Sanchez and the University of Toledo is doing. I know that she is on the agenda, and she will share more but the committee is excited, and this project is incredibly innovative, and we will be incredibly helpful for us to learn across the state and how this will be. As a committee we want to thank Dr. Sanchez and all the work going into and we think you will join me in doing that. I can’t wait to hear your update. That’s all for me and going back briefly about the training that we did on Friday. We can put that on our learn and management system and you can absolutely make that available for folks that are interested. I will keep you all updated once that is uploaded and how to access it.
3. **Floor opened to membership at large for trainings and development-Linda Powers**
4. Mary Kate Waggoner: Well, we are technically training at Walsh, and we will have a presentation. I want to open to the group as I know there is always good training going on all the time so if anyone has any training, they would like to share with the group now is the time to do that.
5. Amy Legasse: Hi this is Amy. How is everyone. I am in Toledo. I want to remind everyone that our 21st annual International Human Trafficking and social justice conference. The registration for the conference, the last day is tomorrow so register. Make sure that you go to HT conference .com. all the information is there. If more than one individual from your agency wants to join there is a discount for four or more. I just want to do a plug. Please join us it is one of the oldest or the oldest human trafficking conferences in the United States. Celia jump in at any time. Please join us at the conference.
6. Dr. Celia Williamson: We call it the oldest academic conference in the world. We have about 110 presenters/ presentations. The thing is you get to watch, it is virtual. You get to watch the presentations up to three weeks after the conference. You can get CLEs, but you can only get a maximum of 12. But you do have access for three weeks after the conference to watch as many as you want. Good job and thank you guys for the opportunity. Thank you.
7. Mary Kate Waggoner: I saw someone in that chat said Ohio Health is hosting a forensics symposium this Thursday. It is free and available in person or virtually. Could you send that information to the HTI email so we can get that out to the group. Thank you. Yes Sam.
8. Samantha Solomon: I just want to as a representative of the Summit County Collaborative on Human Trafficking and along with eight other north Ohio coalitions throughout we are hosting our 2nd Annual Human Trafficking Conference on October 18, 2024, at the University of Akron’s Law School. Registration is now open so we can send the flyer out to everybody so you guys can all register.
9. Kelli Cary: Mary Kate, I will plug. Our office is hosting a webinar on September 30, 2024, with the National Human Trafficking hotline and OTIP-Office on Trafficking in Persons.
10. **UT Focus Project Presentation-Amy Legasse, Dr. Celia Williams, Dr. Rosario Sanchez.**
11. **In attendance:** David Corliss, Rebecca Bundy, Chrissy Hughes-McAllister, Christina LaPointe, Liza Day, Annette Mango, Samantha Solomon, Katie Taylor, Karen Monroe, Sara Johnson, Leslie Potterton, Erin Meyer, Micayla Wilson, Karen Monroe, Donna Hoffman, Kwami Adoboe-Herrerra, Emily Dunlap, Jodi Stanton, Joey A. Compton, Celia Williamson, Kirsti Mouncey, Alyssa Newell, Jasmine Meyers, Leyshon Roberts, Eric Matheny, Tracy Goss McGinley, Haleigh Young, Jill Jackson, Amy Henning, Jennifer Taber, Carol Wygant, Hannah Swift, Nancy Hashman, Rosario Sanchez, Cassandra Hartman, Thomas Beers, Ruth Downing, Julie Shroyer, Anna Travis, Karla Bloomingdale, Danielle Davis, Crystal Allen, Kathleen Hackett, Terri Hood-Brown, Jessica Toncler, Mary Kate Waggoner, Amy Lagesse, Josh Edwards, Becca Peckingpaugh, Anna Becks, Janis Karim, D. Barker, Latasha Brown, Lauren B., Matthew Hilbert, Jon Eric Sprague, Linda Powers, Kelly May, Rosa Beltre, Christi Bartman, Harold D’Souza, Dancy D’Souza, Chelsee Gaffney, Hannah Estabrook, Gwen England, Jen Rausch, Ruchelle Alleyne, Heathe Wilde, Naima Iim, Veronica Scherbauer, Kelli Cary, Sarah Brown.