



HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2021 | 1-3 PM

1. Welcome and Introduction of New Members by HTI – Jennifer Rausch
 - a. Jennifer Rausch welcomed the group and introduced the following new members:

Sgt. McGilton with the Southeastern Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force,
Detective Dan Cuckler with the Summit County Human Trafficking Task Force
Josh Walters with the Miami Valley Human Trafficking Task Force, Ohio House Representative Andrea White and Ohio Senator Theresea Gavarone.
2. Term Limits for Subcommittee Chairs and Ambassadors – Group
 - a. Jen Rausch lead the discussion about term limits for subcommittee chairs and the Ambassadors. Subcommittees were not up and running until March of 2020. The group decided term limits will run until March 1, 2022 and members must notify the chairs by December 1, 2021 if they are interested in taking over the position.
 - b. Subcommittee chairs may extend their terms if working on a large project or for another 2-year term, whichever is shorter. The subcommittees members must agree to this extension.
 - c. Subcommittee chairs are recommended to encourage subcommittee members to take leadership and or participatory roles at their next subcommittee meeting.
 - d. Samantha Salamon asked if there was another way for subcommittee members to anonymously communicate a change in leadership. The HTI team encourages any subcommittee members to email the team if they have any concerns.
 - e. Jen Rausch asked subcommittee chairs to please email HTI@OhioAGO.gov an updated subcommittee member roster. The HTI team will then send an email out to all subcommittee members explaining the term limits, encouraging leadership participation and requesting any information HTI might need to have.
 - f. Bri Combs asked if there is a document explaining the chair roles when they are recruiting. Jen Rausch explained there is not and it is up to the subcommittees to decide their role and the times they are meeting. The manner subcommittee chairs handle internal work groups are decided amongst themselves.

- g. Harold D'Souza discussed compensation for survivors and encouraged the Commission to add male and labor trafficking survivors to the group. Harold was encouraged to link those survivors with subcommittees, if they are interested.
- h. Jen Rausch stated the Commission must keep a manageable number of Ambassadors for the Advisory Council due to compensation. The Ambassadors' terms will end in March of 2023 and we will address how that will occur closer to that timeframe.
- i. Annette Mango asked for other survivors to join and provide consultation to the Ambassadors and subcommittees. The Ambassadors are able to meet together as a subcommittee if they want and have the ability to work on items as a group.
- j. If additional survivors are added to subcommittees, there is not compensation at this time. As long as the participants are aware of that and wish to still be involved, there is no issue. The HTI team and the Commission want as much survivor involvement as possible, balancing that with compensation and exploitation concerns.
- k. Rebekkah O'Bryan asked about the compensation piece for survivors on the Advisory Council. Jen Rausch explained the process that had been previously discussed at Commission meetings.
- l. Terri Foltz let the Commission know the Salvation Army grant is working with a focus group of survivors. She stated 80% of their participants thus far are concerned or have expressed feeling exploited by providers or the social service system since they have left the life.
 - i. Several Ambassadors weighed in on this issue and the group engaged in further discussion.
 - ii. Ambassador Ann Marie Babb stated there is a written document by the National Survivor Network on how to work with survivors. She will forward that to the HTI team and it will be sent to the Commission with the meeting minutes.

3. Advisory Council Updates – Ambassadors

- a. Stephanie Rollins continues to work with the Healthcare subcommittee on a variety of projects.
- b. Ann Marie Babb has created a written Charter document for the Public Awareness subcommittee.
- c. Annette Mango stated there should be a better representation of labor trafficking survivors in the field. She is also concerned about scholarships for survivors

because some of the qualifications have rules mandating education which some survivors do not have. Jen Rausch asked for her to send the specific scholarships and organizations to the HTI team to review.

4. Subcommittee Updates – Group

a. Demand Reduction Subcommittee – Tony Talbott

- i. Tony Talbott stated the demand reduction subcommittee typically meets monthly, but coordinating summer schedules has been tough. They have a meeting scheduled for the end of September. The group is focusing on demand reduction strategies for both sex and labor trafficking. There will be a selection of leadership for these two work groups.
- ii. The group is currently working on a core document that outlines the objective, goals and mission of the subcommittee. The subcommittee is also meeting with the Victim Services Labor Trafficking Work Group to brainstorm specific ways to reduce labor trafficking demand.

b. Health Care Subcommittee – Ruth Downing

- i. Ruth Downing shared the healthcare subcommittee is producing an EMS video scenario with AGO videographer, Jonathan Quilter, at the end of September. The scenario will include EMS professionals, Michele Sorrell Tom Beers, and actors from the Cleveland area. The next scenario will depict a scene of an inpatient and out-patient center at the Mt. Carmel simulation center in downtown Columbus. This video will take place after the first scenario is completed.
- ii. The subcommittee is also collaborating with the HTI team about Forensic Nursing data collection in three different pilot hospitals in Ohio.
- iii. Laura Wilken and Heather Wilde are creating model hospital policies to include information for all hospitals that could hopefully be used by the Ohio Hospital Association.
- iv. The American Hospital Association just released human trafficking standards. Amber Pascol, Annette Mango and Stephanie Rollins are working on a list of recommendations for hospitals that could be listed on the AGO website to help improve a trauma informed response in the healthcare field.

c. Law Enforcement Subcommittee – Det. Aaron Dennis (absent); update provided by Emily Billman

- i. Detective Dennis will be stepping down as the LE subcommittee chair at the end of September. This chair position will be open to any law enforcement personnel on the Commission. Members should reach out to HTI if they are interested at HTI@OhioAGO.gov.
 - d. Legal & Legislative Subcommittee – Samantha Salamon, Senator Fedor
 - i. Samantha Salamon stated the subcommittee has not met as frequently, but has still been reviewing things like the grooming bill.
 - ii. Chelsea Golterman stated the expungement bill should receive its first hearing with the Judiciary Committee the week of 9/27. Please reach out to Senator Fedor’s office if any members would like to submit testimony.
 - iii. Samantha notified the group that there is a gap in medical expenses and victim compensation. Samantha spoke with Ruth Downing and also discussed how awareness of the issue is essential because it impacts survivors. Jen Rausch stated there is legislation pending to modify Victims of Crime eligibility that may help. She is also working with the AGO Legislative team to research how sexual assault kit billing comes through Crime Victims. Please let HTI know if there are any more developments on this issue.
 - iv. Samantha stated they would also like to focus on big concepts like the shelter issues for labor trafficking and funds for housing. If any members would like to join the subcommittee, please reach out to salamon@asiaohio.org.
 - e. Public Awareness Subcommittee – HTI
 - i. Bri Combs stated the original subcommittee members tried to meet one time, but only one person showed up. They have created a charter document to recruit new members. If any members are interested in joining, please reach out to Bri at Brianna.Combs@use.salvationarmy.org.
 - ii. Bri hopes to have a chair assigned to the subcommittee by December 1st, 2021. The next public awareness meeting will be held on September 27th from 3PM to 4 PM.
 - iii. The group discussed how the Public Awareness subcommittee can partner with other subcommittees on their work since it may intersect with other group projects. Kelli Cary has a list of names she can send to HTI who may want to join the subcommittee.

- iv. The HTI team will work on editing the public awareness guide for the subcommittee, given the current “in-progress” status of the subcommittee.
 - v. Members are allowed to invite outside individuals to join the subcommittee meetings even if they are not a part of the Commission. They were encouraged to think of people that might be a good fit for Public Awareness.
- f. Research/Data & Gap Analysis Subcommittee – Christi Bartman, Jesse Bach
- i. Christi Bartman let the Commission know their data report is almost finished. They identified data reporting gaps within Ohio agencies and organizations. They created a section including who does not collect data and ways these identified agencies/organizations could collect data. The last part of the report includes future recommendations for the Ohio Attorney General. The final draft will be sent to the HTI team within the next few weeks.
 - ii. Christi and Jesse are looking for new co-chairs and members to join the subcommittee.
 - iii. Jen Rausch let the Commission know that even though we have not done trainings as part of the quarterly meetings, members can let the HTI team know if they have a project or presentation they would like to give at a quarterly meeting. The Research/Data & Gap Analysis report is a great example of a potential presentation.
- g. Victim Services Subcommittee – Michelle Hannan, Kelli Cary
- i. Kelli Cary let the Commission know the service standards self-assessment tool will be released soon, but has been held up due to technological issues. In the meantime, the group has put together a list of human trafficking training and topics that will help organizations fulfill the ethical training standard.
 - ii. Their group is also developing a 1:1 consultation process for organizations to discuss their self-assessment with subcommittee members. There will be two dates per week until December to sign-up for a consultation. The subcommittee is also encouraging coalitions to push the self-assessment out.
 - iii. The service matrix cannot be implemented until after the subcommittee analyzes the self-assessment data. Once the data is analyzed they will push out service matrix information to direct service providers.

- iv. Samantha Salamon leads the Labor Trafficking Working Group for the Victim Services subcommittee. She stated there are services needed such as shelter placement and they are looking into creative ways to address the problem. Kelli Cary suggested collaborating with the demand reduction subcommittee to look at holistic information and services for labor trafficking survivors across the spectrum.
- v. Samantha also mentioned there is an issue with Continued Presence and T/U-Visas. A survivor must agree to participate in an investigation and obtain approval from law enforcement to obtain Continued Presence. Unfortunately, many survivors are still denied this status even after they apply. Michelle Hannan suggested they work with the task forces to educate on Continued Presence.

5. General HTI updates –Jomel Aird

a. HTI vs. HTC clarification

- i. Jomel Aird clarified the difference between HTI and HTC. Jen, Jomel and Emily are the Human Trafficking Initiative and run the Human Trafficking Commission. Any work conducted by subcommittees is doing so on behalf of the Human Trafficking Commission.

b. Sex Buyer Education Program Rollout

- i. Jomel Aird explained the HTI team will be releasing a Sex Buyer Education curriculum soon. This was created based on the new Ohio Revised Code offense of Engaging in Prostitution. The intent of these standards is to guide local jurisdictions when establishing new or maintaining existing education programs based upon ORC 2907.231.
- ii. The topics included in Ohio's Curriculum Standards for Sex Buyer Education Programs include: sex trafficking, court/legal information, the health/mental impact of buying sex/sex trafficking, the why behind buying sex and building support to prevent further exploitation. The HTI team understands this is a multi-layered issue where accountability plays a pivotal role in shifting buyer behavior. Stay tuned for more information.

c. Summit 2022

- i. Jomel stated the HTI team had received over 30 applications for the virtual Summit 2022. They will be releasing details in the coming weeks. If anyone has a recommendation for a keynote speaker, please email them to HTI@OhioAGO.gov.

6. Upcoming Trainings and Developments – Group

- a. Alicia Wolf from the Ohio Supreme Court stated she is available to answer any questions about specialty dockets in Ohio.
- b. Maria Busch announced Rebekkah O’Bryan joined the Governor’s Human Trafficking Task Force team at the Ohio Department of Safety as their new grant coordinator.

Members who attended: Mandie Knight, Erin Meyer, Chelsea Golterman, Veronica Scherbauer, Maria Busch, Rebekkah O’Bryan, Christi Bartman, Samantha Salamon, Kellie Lockmeyer, Kelli Cary, Michelle Hannan, Terri Foltz, Stephanie Rollins, Naima Ilmi, Kathy Chen, Harold D’Souza, Annette Mango, Ann Marie Babb, Debra Seltzer, Tony Talbott, Kathryn Taylor, Ruth Downing, Christopher Clark, Jennifer Tscholl, Jennifer Beigie, Emily Dunlap, Rebecca Bundy, Alicia Wolf, Ryn Farmer, Amy LaGessee, Cynthia VanCleve, Sue Pohler, Katie Congrove, Brianna Combs, Jill Jackson, Maggie Kane, Carol Stutnik, Hannah Estabrook, Kirsti Mouncey, Matt Hilbert, Patricia Stipek, Carol O’Brien, Jennifer Rausch, Jomel Aird, Emily Billman, Katie Blankemeyer, Pete Swartz, Alex Hunt, Representative Richardson, Levi Gross, Tonya Folks