



## Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission

Approved Minutes

January 23, 2018

Louisiana State Police Headquarters Rm D

### **Member Attendees:**

Marilee Andrews  
Ellen Toney (Proxy for James Bueche, Jr. Ph.D.)  
Benny Soulier (Proxy for Kenneth Burrell)  
Alliece Cole  
Lt. Brad Cook  
Bob Wertz (Proxy for Jim Craft)  
Monica Taylor (Proxy for Tracey Dahmer)  
Rep. Valerie Hodges  
Sundee Winder (Proxy for Dr. Parham Jaberi)  
Judge Joy Lobrano  
Sec. Marketa Walters  
Candice R. Forest (Proxy for Supt. John White)  
Angela White-Bazille

### **Non members**

Toni Bankston  
Justin Berry  
Dustin Browning  
Jamie Johnson  
Richard Mahoney  
Leanne McCallum  
Maj. Carl Saizan  
Megan Westmoreland

### **Call To Order**

Chair, Judge Joy Lobrano, called the meeting to order and recorded members in attendance. She requested that State Police do their presentation early which will allow more time to reach at least a two thirds attendance. .

### **Presentation**

Justin Berry with Louisiana State Police presented a PowerPoint presentation on human trafficking. He is part of a team that investigates human trafficking throughout the state. The following were highlights of his presentation:

- Victims get manipulated to engage in prostitution dates for the trafficker.
- Human smuggling is a business transaction between two willing parties (smuggler and smugglee); a non-citizen committing a crime against the border by coming here illegally.
- Human trafficking is receiving labor of sex; taking advantage of someone who is at a disadvantage and they are receiving a benefit.
- R.S. 46.2 Human Trafficking law- used for laboring trafficking cases for adults and juveniles and for commercial sex trafficking cases for adults. August 2016 legislators amended that law - no persons under 21 years of age can consent to prostitution.
- R.S. 46.3 Human trafficking of children
- Anyone can be a trafficker does not matter what you look like or your background.
- Traffickers target victims who are at a disadvantage. 80% of the juveniles they deal with are in state's custody. Often they run away from group homes and are found by the trafficker.
- Victim's profile they have created: 80% have prior sexual abuse in their background, signs of physical abuse, unstable home life, lack of parental supervision, state custody kids, older boyfriend, substance abuse and/or gang involvement.

At the end of the presentation, Judge Joy Lobrano asked for any recommendations and the presenter stated that education is important. He stated letting the public know that human trafficking exists, using the victim centered approach and having services are important.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the November 21, 2017 minutes by Monica Taylor and seconded by Sundee Winder.

### **Election of Secretary**

Chair, Judge Joy Lobrano recommended Natalie Laborde as secretary. One member approved the motion and another seconded. All members were in agreement. The secretary would be responsible for reviewing the minutes and working with the agenda.

### **Update: Regional Trafficking Summits**

Secretary Marketa Walters advised that the summits were being held and paid through a grant up to \$150,000 dollars by the National Criminal Justice Center, Amber Alert. The goal of the summits were to identify where the gaps in services and what needs to be provided. She advised that four have been held so far: Baton Rouge, Alexandria, Shreveport, and Monroe. She stressed the importance of at least one commission member be a part the regional summits. The schedule for future meetings is as follows:

- February 20, 2018 Terrebonne/Lafourche
- February 22, 2018 Covington
- March 8, 2018 New Orleans
- Lafayette and Lake Charles was postponed due to the weather; hoping to have meeting the first week in March.

Chair, Judge Lobrano stated that the March 8<sup>th</sup> summit will be held at the Lakeview Christian Center in New Orleans and she would like to have as many commission members as possible to be in attendance. She stated that until the summits are over, the commission will not have a significant finding to properly present to the Governor and the Legislature. The Commission's Report will be due February 1 of each year. Also, the Chair would like the remainder of the Regional Summits' details (dates, times & location) to be e-mailed to members.

### **Advisory Board Chair's Report**

Chair, Judge Lobrano advised that the Human Trafficking Advisory Board elected a chair, Alliece Cole, and the statute dictates that she is a member of the commission. Chair, Judge Lobrano stated they would like to have a report at each of the commission meetings from the chair or proxy of the Advisory Board.

Alliece Cole reported that the Advisory Board will meet the opposite months of the commission meetings with the next meeting to be held on February 26, 2018. She also stated that she is part of the non-profit, HP Serve, that helps to write the Commission's Report. She stated that Megan Westmoreland heads up the grant and works closely with and Dr. Dana Hunter.

### **Discussion/Approval of 2018 Meeting Schedule**

Chair Lobrano distributed a handout with deadline dates, which began with January 23, 2018 and ends with January 10, 2019, to prepare for next year's annual report. She stated that if a member is designating a proxy then an e-mail should be sent for the record. Chair, Judge Lobrano would like to have draft #1 by August 15<sup>th</sup> and have the final in a published form.

### **Discussion /Approval of 2017 Annual Report**

Chair, Lobrano requested a motion to amend the draft in the following manner:

1. Add, "An Election of Officers", stating that Natalie Laborde was elected unanimously by the commission.
2. Under "Findings of Commission," Add, the commission finds that in order to achieve its directives, the commission of ATC should be appointed as a member of the commission.
3. Under "Recommendations," leave the language that the commission recommends amending the La. R.S. 46.2165 to comply with the above findings.

Also, as part of the motion to allow the chair to be granted the authority to edit, as appropriate, any technical wording. Secretary Marketa Walters gave the motion and Bob Wertz seconded the motion. Commission members agreed unanimously.

### **Other Business**

No other business

### **Public Comments**

Jamie Johnson suggested putting a victim of human trafficking in the room to give a testimony to create passion and urgency to prevent it.

Richard Mahoney stated that the number one agency that sees sex trafficking in minors is Planned Parenthood. He gave handouts to members and stated that state agencies are the problem. He stated that if you want prevention; stop the funding of Planned Parenthood.

Leanne McCallum, Task Force Coordinator with the Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force, will be having a specialized investigation training from the Department of Justice and International Association of the Chief of Police. She stated that if your state agency is interested in being represented in the training, the website is [www.nolatrafficking.org](http://www.nolatrafficking.org).

### **Motion to adjourn**

Member motioned to adjourn meeting and seconded by another member.