**Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission & Advisory Board**

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**Meeting**

May 19, 2022

1:30pm

Zoom

1. Call the Meeting to Order Chief Tommy Clark
   1. Chief Clark called the meeting to order. HTPC Chair
2. Roll Call
   1. Ashley Bourgeois called roll for the Commission and Advisory Board.
   2. The following members of the Commission were present:
      1. Chair- Chief Tommy Clark
      2. Bob Wertz
      3. Casey Morace
      4. Lieutenant Justin Berry
      5. Sec. Marketa Walters; proxy, Christy Tate
      6. Monica Taylor
      7. Richard Pittman
      8. Amanda Perry
   3. The following members of the Advisory Board were present:
      1. Chair- Casey Morace
      2. Co-Chair- Michelle Johnson
      3. Alliece Cole
      4. Angela Wiggins-Harris
      5. Clayton Kleinpeter, MD
      6. Laurie Mcgehee
      7. Linsey Barnard

1. Opening Remarks Chief Tommy Clark
   1. Chief Clark welcomed members to the May Commission meeting.
   2. Mary Kate Andrepont, Governor’s Office of Human Trafficking Prevention
      1. Andrepont welcomed members. In lieu of an update from the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention, she has the pleasure to introduce to members the Director of Community Programs within the Governor’s Office, Katina Semien Smothers. She notes the great support from the Governor and First Lady on anti-human trafficking efforts and how that support trickles down through the leadership in the Governor’s Office. Semien Smothers is no exception. Andrepont is grateful for her leadership, and she is excited that she is joining the meeting today. Andrepont welcomed Semien Smothers to share remarks.
   3. Katina Semien Smothers, Es., Director of Community Program, Governor’s Office
      1. Semien Smothers thanked members. She is honored to be listening in on the call today. In her role as the Director of the Office of Community Programs, she supervises 12 departments within the Governor’s Office, including the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention. She welcomes members on behalf of Deputy Chief Chaunda Mitchell, who is travelling today. She thanked members for all of the great work they do on the ground and for their inspiration. She noted that her office is happy to help in any way that they can. Semien Smothers recognized Dr. Dana Hunter and offered praise of the entire team of the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention.

1. **Old Business:** Approval of March 2022 Minutes Chief Tommy Clark
   1. Chief Clark opened the floor to review March 2022 minutes.
   2. Monica Taylor made a motion to accept the minutes. Bob Wertz seconded
      1. All in favor. Motion passed.
2. **New Business:** Legislative Update and Vote HTPC
   1. Chief Clark opened the floor for legislative updates.
   2. Andrepont provided an overview of 2022 Regular Session human trafficking-related legislation and their status.
      1. SB 148 (Mizell) on post-conviction relief for victims of human trafficking
         * Passed both chambers; pending Senate concurrence for an amendment that was offered yesterday, ‘the Michelle Johnson Act.’
         * The amendment is named after Advisory Board co-chair and members, Johnson. Andrepont noted Johnson’s bravery and leadership in advocating for post-conviction relief for many years preceding this bill.
      2. SB 115 (Mizell) on mandatory training of peace officers related to human trafficking
         * Passed in Senate, and pending House final passage.
      3. SB 63 (Mizell) on DCFS jurisdiction and care coordination
         * Passed Senate and pending House committee on Health and Welfare
      4. HB 638 (Freeman) on expungement of records for victims of human trafficking
         * Withdrawn
      5. HB 561 (Freeman) on civil liability for sexual assault (extends prescriptive period to 10 years)
         * Involuntarily deferred in committee
   3. Andrepont added that for the agenda item of vote of support for the bills, members will be discussing SB 148, SB 115, SB 63. Members were provided PDF copies of the bills.
      1. Andrepont reminded members that:
         * Per RS 46:2165, a legislative recommendation is adopted upon approval of two-thirds of Commission members present.
         * The vote is only for Commission members, and members will vote by roll call.
   4. Chief Clark opened the floor to members with any questions before discussion and voting commences.
   5. Morace took a moment to applaud Michelle Johnson for her work on the bills with Senator Mizell. She noted that it took a lot of bravery for her to testify on her experiences, and she is proud of her.
   6. Pittman made a motion for a formal commendation for Michelle Johnson for recognition this legislative session. Taylor seconded. Motion carried.
      1. Chief noted that Andrepont will ensure motion is carried through by the OHTP.
3. Vote and Discussion: Senate Bill 115, mandatory training of peace officers
   1. Discussion of SB 115
      1. Chief Clark opened the floor for discussion of SB 115.
      2. Taylor asked if there was a fiscal note. Andrepont responded that there is no fiscal vote at this time.
         * Taylor added that the bill charges LCLE with creating the seven hours and she wants to ensure that LCLE has the resources to do so.
         * Andrepont noted that LCLE already has the seven courses developed, but Wertz can confirm.
         * Chief Clark said that he was also aware that those hours are already created in the portal.
         * Wertz confirmed that modules already exist. The only piece that is needed from LCLE is the technical part. The modules will be created as a curriculum instead of a single course. They will take care of it under their funds for regular maintenance.
      3. Chief Clark reminded members that as a Commission, we are not getting into the specific language of the actual bill but rather the content of what the bill is designed to do. The vote does not signify an obligation to the specific language in the bill as it currently stands and/or its future amendments because we recognize that Legislators could change it.
      4. Perry asked how the Commission can hold a vote to support the bill if we are not making a motion to support the content of the bill. It is unclear to her.
         * Chief Clark responded that the Commission has previously voted to support training of law enforcement and recognizes that we need more officers to have training. As Commission members, we cannot tell legislators exactly what to write in their bills, and it’s the duty of legislators to determine how it comes out on the other end. We are voting on the intent, as we have previously recommended.
         * Taylor added that she understands what Perry is saying, but in her experience serving on many committees, members do not have control over outcome of bills, but they can vote on the bill today. It is the legislature’s prerogative to amend bills, even after we approve it. Taylor added that we are not voting for exact language of bill, as legislators vote for a bill, but voting on the concept of the bill.
         * Wertz recommended that Commission entertain a motion to “support the purpose of training standards on human trafficking as presented in SB 115 re-engrossed.”
           1. Morace said she would support that motion.
           2. Wertz added that he does not think SB 115 will change much going forward.
         * Perry said that helps, but she wants to make sure the seven hours of training is not redundant but purposeful and thoughtful.
           1. Wertz added that LCLE tends to steer legislators away from determining hours but rather specifying content for training, then LCLE determines how many hours that will take for an average students. He said, in this particular case, LCLE had developed seven different topics on human trafficking that do not overlap. It covers introduction to human trafficking and even goes through how to secure T- and U- Visas and strategies to address victim services. Senator Mizell determined she wants everyone to have the training, and that is where they landed on it.
           2. Perry agreed that everyone should have the training, but she does have an issue with the bill determining the hours and needed clarification on where it came from.
           3. Michelle Johnson notes that this is a foundation because currently law enforcement does not have mandatory training. The modules that are developed are a great starting point. We have never had mandatory training, and this is breaking ground for it. We can build off of this bill in the future and revisit it if something is not working or we need to improve the training. She confirmed with Wertz that that is an option.
           4. Wertz said yes, that they want to give it a chance to roll out and implement first. They have a roll out plan.
           5. Morace added that the seven hours were recommended by law enforcement personnel because there are seven modules that exist.
           6. Wertz confirmed.
         * Perry asked for clarification if this is just new peace officers. Andrepont responded that the bill does include new peace officers and current peace officers. Wertz confirmed it is a requirement for all peace officers .
   2. Wetz made a motion to support the purpose of training standards on human trafficking as presented in SB 115 rengrossed. Morace seconded.
   3. Ashley Bourgeois called roll on vote to approve SB 115 as motioned.
      1. Chair- Chief Tommy Clark - yes
      2. Bob Wertz - yes
      3. Casey Morace - yes
      4. Lieutenant Justin Berry - abstain
      5. Christy Tate - yes
      6. Monica Taylor - yes
      7. Richard Pittman - yes
      8. Amanda Perry - no
   4. 6 yeses; 1 no; 1 abstention. Two-thirds of members present approved. Motion is carried.
4. Discussion and Vote Senate Bill 148, post-conviction relief
   1. Discussion of SB 148
      1. No discussion noted.
   2. Morace made a motion to approve SB 148 as it stands. Pittman Seconded.
   3. Ashley Bourgeois called roll on vote to approve SB 148.
      1. Chief Tommy Clark – yes
      2. Bob Wertz – yes
      3. Casey Morace – yes
      4. Lieutenant Justin Berry – abstain
      5. Christy Tate – yes
      6. Monica Taylor – yes
      7. Richard Pittman – yes
      8. Amanda Perry – yes
   4. 7 yeses; 1 abstention. Two-thirds of members present approved. Motion is carried.
5. Discussion and Vote Senate Bill 63, DCFS jurisdiction
   1. Discussion of SB 63
      1. Chief Clark asked if anyone from DCFS wanted to expand on the bill before motion was made.
      2. Tate adds that the bill was amended, and in current posture, DCFS is very much in support. The bill includes funding.
   2. Morace made a motion to approve SB 63. Perry Seconded.
   3. Ashley Bourgeois called roll on vote to approve SB 63
      1. Chief Tommy Clark – yes
      2. Bob Wertz – yes
      3. Casey Morace – yes
      4. Lieutenant Justin Berry – abstain
      5. Christy Tate – yes
      6. Monica Taylor – yes
      7. Richard Pittman – yes
      8. Amanda Perry – yes
   4. 7 yeses; 1 abstention. Two-thirds of members present approved. Motion is carried.
6. Updates from Subcommittee Chief Tommy Clark
   1. Labor trafficking and Immigration – Joint update Lugine Gray
      1. The subcommittee is meeting jointly. The subcommittee is developing collaborative relationships with worker’s rights groups and advocacy groups within New Orleans region. They are working on a resource list during times of disaster and crisis.
      2. Morace thanked Lugine for stepping up as chair.
      3. Andrepont added that the subcommittee is meeting jointly for the moment as there was overlap in membership between both subcommittees, but they are still holding space for each topic to be discussed separately. She also added that the OHTP directed the subcommittee to form a disaster working group.
   2. Sex trafficking of Adult Victims Michelle Johnson
      1. Subcommittee voted for chair and secretary. Johnson is chair, and Dr. Michelle Nelson is the secretary. They have around 20 members, representing many different fields and professions. At the first meeting, the subcommittee discussed the current legislative bills and recommendations made to the Commission in years past but did not get too far into recommendations for this year. She plans to reach out to members this week to get the ball rolling on topics for recommendations.
      2. Johnson thanked Senator Mizell and Representative Freeman for picking up some of the recommendations the subcommittee presented last year.
   3. Sex trafficking of Minor Victims Courtney Lewis
      1. Courtney Lewis is chair, and Angela Wiggins- Harris is the secretary. They spoke on recommendations of last year and began having discussions on goals for this year. At the first meeting, they did a meet and greet on the subcommittee, and how everyone can play a part in the subcommittee. Wiggins-Harris and her have met ahead of the next meeting in June. They will put together some goals for the subcommittee for a vote and be assigning out some groups for the subcommittee to work on different initiatives.
   4. Chief Clark opened it up if members had anything else to add on subcommittees. He thanked the chairs and secretaries.
7. Guest Speaker: Leanne McCallum, Labor Trafficking Mini Training
   1. Leanne McCallum, Strategic Projects Manager at the Louisiana Alliance for Children’s Advocacy Centers, provided a modified Labor Trafficking Identification and Response training. The training was developed by the Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Taskforce, and she has been certified as a trainer.
      1. Training provided federal definitions of human trafficking and forced labor; difference between labor, child labor, and labor trafficking; sites/types of labor trafficking; human trafficking intersectionality; foreign national labor trafficking; barriers to coming forward; recruitment; youth forced into criminal activity; reporting labor trafficking victims; identifying labor trafficking threat assessment.
      2. For more information about the taskforce training, she provided contact information to the GNOHTTF. For more on LCYTC, reach out to herself or Kate Shipley. She asked if anyone had any questions.
   2. Laurie McGehee added that as a result of McCallum’s training, Caddo Parish Juvenile Court has started to ask and screen youth if they have been forced into criminal activity, such as the drug trade. They have run across juveniles who have been coerced into criminal activity, and it is important to understand forced criminal activity as a part of labor trafficking
      1. McCallum thanked McGehee for sharing.
   3. Chief Clark thanked McCallum for the presentation.
8. Other Business Chief Tommy Clark
   1. Monica Taylor thanked Andrepont for joining the South West Human Trafficking Taskforce. Calcasieu Parish is starting the SWLA Human Trafficking Taskforce, and they have put together an impressive group of stakeholders. Andrepont made the drive to Lake Charles and provided a short presentation on the OHTP. She appreciates Andrepont joining.
      1. Andrepont thanked Taylor. The OHTP is looking forward to following the work of the SWLA Human Trafficking Taskforce. She added that yesterday she met with the Central Louisiana Human Trafficking Taskforce in Alexandria. It is exciting to see so many taskforces forming and coming together across the state.
      2. Taylor added that Laffayette is also beginning to work on a taskforce and several other areas. She has been doing some training for them.
   2. Chief Clark reminded members of the upcoming South Central U.S. Human Trafficking training in Shreveport.
      1. McGehee noted that they just redid the flyer for the conference. They received confirmation that Cyntoia Long-Brown will be the closing speaker. They are anticipating a great conference with some great local and national leaders.
      2. McGehee also added that they have the Northwest Human Trafficking Taskforce in Shreveport, which is integral to putting on the conference. The taskforce is celebrating eight years of their multi-disciplinary team that was started in 2014, thanks to all of their community partners. They meet monthly to staff cases and talk about gaps in services, and working together as a community. She invited Andrepont to visit their taskforce.
      3. Andrepont said she would be glad to visit and thanked McGehee for her leadership as well as the Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Taskforce for paving the way for all of the new taskforces that are forming.
9. Topics for Next Meeting Chief Tommy Clark
   1. Next meeting is August 18, 2022. No meeting in July. It will be in-person.
   2. Presentation of 2022 Annual Data Report
   3. 2022 Regular Session Legislative Update
   4. 2022 Subcommittee Legislative Recommendation Overview
10. Public Comment Chief Tommy Clark
    1. none
11. Adjournment Chief Tommy Clark
    1. Monica Taylor motioned to adjourn. Bob Wertz seconded. Meeting close at 2:46 pm.