

*The Office of*  
**HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
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## **Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission & Advisory Board**

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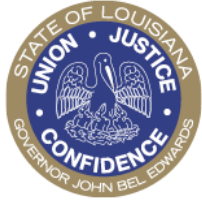
### **Meeting**

March 24, 2022

1:30pm

Zoom

- I. Call the Meeting to Order Chief Tommy Clark
  - a. Chief Clark called the meeting to order.
  
- II. Roll Call
  - a. Ashley Bourgeois called roll for the Commission and Advisory Board.
  - b. The following members of the Commission were present:
    - i. Chair- Chief Tommy Clark
    - ii. Bill Sommers; via proxy
    - iii. Bob Wertz
    - iv. Casey Morace
    - v. Lieutenant Justin Berry
    - vi. Sec. Marketa Garner Walters
    - vii. Monica Taylor
    - viii. Richard Pittman
    - ix. Senator Beth Mizell
    - x. Amanda Perry
  - c. The following members of the Advisory Board were present:
    - i. Chair- Casey Morace
    - ii. Co-Chair- Michelle Johnson
    - iii. Alliece Cole
    - iv. Angela Wiggins-Harris
    - v. Ashley Politz
    - vi. L. Clayton Kleinpeter, MD
    - vii. Delery Rice
    - viii. Sheri Lochridge
    - ix. Juanita Carruth
    - x. Kate Shipley
    - xi. Rafael de Castro
    - xii. Reshelle Marino, Ph.D.
  
- III. Opening Remarks
  - a. Chief Tommy Clark welcomes Dr. Dana Hunter to provide opening remarks.

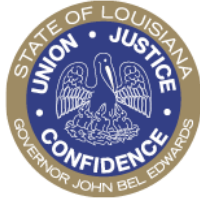


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- b. Dr. Hunter thanks members for serving survivors and vulnerable people throughout the state. She recognizes the New Orleans region and St. Bernard Parish and is keeping them in her thoughts and prayers as they recover from the recent severe weather.
- i. The Office of Human Trafficking Prevention has not slowed down any. She introduced the OHTP staff: Mary Kate Andrepont, program manager; Rikeisha Spikes as the new program manager; and Ashley Bourgeois, program assistant. Dr. Hunter is thankful to have a fully staffed office.
  - ii. The office has been working closely with First Lady Donna Edward's Office and her national coalition to launch the first statewide human trafficking public awareness campaign. Several first spouses and governors will be joining the kick-off event on April 3, 2022. There will be national speakers and survivors present. They are excited for the knowledge, education, and impact that will happen because of this event on April 3rd.
    - Following the event, the First Lady's Office will pass the baton to the OHTP to oversee and continue this statewide campaign. They have developed print and digital campaign materials, including posters, one-pagers, awareness post-it notes, and indicator cards. If members would like to request material for distribution, please email the OHTP at [humantrafficking@la.gov](mailto:humantrafficking@la.gov) or contact Ashley Bourgeois.
    - For the campaign, the OHTP with the Louisiana Child and Youth Trafficking Collaborative have converted their Human Trafficking Awareness and Reporting training into a brief thirty minute training. It includes introductory information on human trafficking, and they have been offering the thirty minute virtual training to agencies and businesses ahead of the Final Four Tournament. She asks that members please reach out to the office if you would like to receive the link to the training.
  - iii. The OHTP is also continuing to work with medical providers to train and equip them. The office is planning a series of medical trainings for emergency staff, physicians, nurses, and beyond. They are excited that these trainings and that information about human trafficking is continuing to move forward.
  - iv. Dr. Hunter reminds members of the launch of the Human Trafficking Resource Center of Louisiana website, [humantrafficking.la.gov](http://humantrafficking.la.gov). The website includes basic knowledge about human trafficking, reporting information, and statewide resources broken down by region, as well as a special survivor voices page with direct quotes from local survivors.
  - v. Lastly, many members have reached out inquiring about the Annual Human Trafficking data report. Since the Governor's Office took over the data collection from DCFS, the OHTP has partnered with Allies against Slavery to collect and analyze the data. Allies Against Slavery is in process of analyzing the data. For this first year, the report will be released in June/July of 2022. Our office is working with Allies Against Slavery now to create a one-pager with key data. They already have the preliminary data, and she is expecting to share this one-pager with members and stakeholders in the next week.



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- vi. Dr. Hunter reminded members that the OHTP is always a resource for them, and to please reach out if they need any assistance or have any questions on statewide human trafficking efforts.

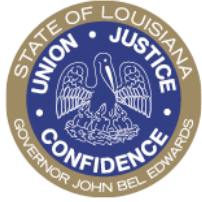
IV. **Old Business:** January 2022 Minutes

- a. Chief Clark opens the floor to review January 2022 minutes.
- b. No amendments or changes notes. Richard Pittman made a motion to approve the minutes. Monica Taylor seconded. Motion carried.

V. **Guest Speaker:** Dr. Lillian Agbeyegbe, Polaris Project

Michelle Johnson

- a. Dr. Hunter notes that Michelle Johnson, co-chair of the Advisory Board and survivor leader, has been working closely with the Polaris Project at the national level on best practices that can help victims and survivors. She is grateful for all of the great work Johnson is doing at the national level, and from her meetings with the Polaris Project, Johnson recommended Dr. Lillian Agbeyegbe join the Commission meeting today to speak with the Commission.
- b. Dr. Hunter introduced Dr. Agbeyegbe. Dr. Agbeyegbe is a public health practitioner with over decades of experience in program planning and implementation. She is currently serving a second-term as an appointee of Governor Larry Hogan on the state of Maryland Family Violence Council. She joins us today as the Community Engagement Manager on the Strategic Initiative on Sex Trafficking team at Polaris Project, a leading national anti-trafficking organization.
- c. Dr. Agbeyegbe thanked Dr. Hunter and Michelle for extending the invitation to be with the Commission today.
  - i. Dr. Agbeyegbe has been with the Polaris Project for over four years. As many know, Polaris is the leading national human trafficking organization. Today, she is sharing with members on some of the work she has been doing in New Orleans called the Safety Net Expansion Initiative.
  - ii. Though Polaris Project has been in operation for 20 years, about two years ago they added a complement to the work they do, and they began regarding themselves as a social justice movement to end human trafficking. Dr. Agbeyegbe shared a short video.
  - iii. Polaris is working in several cities across the United States, including New Orleans, starting from this premise: unless we go upstream, we will continue to deal with the aftermath of trafficking.
  - iv. The goal of the Sex Trafficking team is to reduce sex trafficking in 25 cities over the next ten years. The work is being done on three fronts: 1) Shift legal accountability for trafficking; 2) Change norms around sex buying; and 3) Expand social safety nets for vulnerable populations. The work that she is leading is on expanding social safety nets. They realize that trafficking does not happen in a vacuum, and that traffickers are very deliberate. They exploit specific people with vulnerabilities. If we expand the social safety net, we can get to people before the traffickers get to them, and prevent people from becoming victims.



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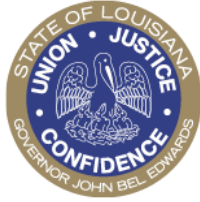
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- v. In past two years, they have piloted the initiative in New Orleans, Louisville, and San Diego. In New Orleans, Polaris does not have a local office. They have engaged stakeholders at local level, held interviews and focus groups, spoke with representatives in anti-trafficking orgs and survivors as well as organizations working with vulnerable people.
- vi. They conducted a New Orleans need assessment with potential focus areas. Stakeholders identified three impact areas. Victoria Coy, policy consultant, will now share with members the impact areas that came out of these meetings with stakeholders.
- vii. Victoria Coy noted that they conducted this focus group to ensure this work was survivor-informed and survivor-led. She presented the three main areas to focus on with short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals: 1) Service expansion for non-English speakers, 2) Housing for parents of at-risk youth, and 3) Temporary emergency housing for youth in crisis and in home crisis stabilization services.
  - They are excited to bring this to the group in case anyone was working on these areas. She wants to get the work out of silos to come up with creative solutions to these issues. They are hope in sharing this information that local stakeholders can get involved in this work.
- viii. Dr. Agbeyegbe thanked members again for allowing them to present. For more information, please contact [lagbeyegbe@polarisproject.org](mailto:lagbeyegbe@polarisproject.org) or [victoria@victoriacoy.com](mailto:victoria@victoriacoy.com).

**VI. New Business: 2022 Legislative Session Update**

- a. Chief Clark opened the floor for legislative updates. Senator Mizell and Representative Freeman were invited to join the meeting.
- b. The Governor's Criminal Justice Policy Advisory and Deputy Executive Counsel, Terell Kent, was introduced to provide an overview of the human trafficking-related bills this session.
- c. Senator Mizell's bills, SB [115](#) on mandatory training of peace officers related to human trafficking; SB [148](#) on post-conviction relief for victims of human trafficking; and SB 63.
  - i. Kent presented SB 115 by Senator Mizell, a bill that would make it mandatory for peace officers to undergo mandatory training related to human trafficking. The bill provides that peace officers will receive, at minimum, seven hours of training within one-year of their hire date or a year within effective date of the bill.
  - ii. Taylor asked Bob Wertz if LCLE has reviewed the bill. She noted that the bill does not say how the training will be delivered, who is responsible for delivering the training, if training is virtual or in-person.
    - Kent responds that those parameters are not in the bill and she does not see that any amendments have been filed. She notes that the committee members may raise the issue to provide for parameters of training.
    - Taylor asked if there was a fiscal note. Kent responded that there is not.

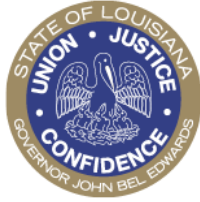


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- iii. Wertz noted that they have met with Senator Mizell regarding the bill. He responded that there are still some things that are not clear in the bill, but he responded to the fiscal office to make clear that the training would be completed online for seven credit hours, though the runtime could vary. When he discussed the bill in previous meeting, the Commission discussed one hour mandatory training per year. He expressed to Senator Mizell the importance of not overloading the officers with information because everyone wants to have their topic covered in depth at the top of officer's career. He also noted that there are questions his team has about compliance percentages and what that means.
- iv. Senator Mizell joined the call; she has been present but was having issues with audio.
- v. Senator Mizell wanted to note the intent of the bills. Both bills—SB 115 and SB 148—are based on the legislative audit on training and resources for victims. They are working on one last amendment from the DAs (regarding post-conviction relief)
  - She met with LCLE, Sheriff's Association, and the Police Chief's Association on SB 115. The agreement was a seven hour of training because there are seven credit hours available from POST. The date is to verify who has done it, how they have done it, and that will provide insight on where we need to go from there. Some groups will do it online, some may do it in person at their training academy. There may be different ways the training is delivered.
- vi. Senator Mizell also would like to discuss SB 63, as it was not on the agenda for discussion. SB 63 would allow DCFS to have jurisdiction and oversight over human trafficking victims. She noted that we have no statewide agency that coordinates law enforcement investigation and victim resources on the ground for the victims. DCFS provided her yesterday an incredible plan on what they can do. She worked with them to come up with a plan that bring all the pieces together to work for the victims, while still addressing law enforcement investigations into traffickers.
  - She noted that she would like the Commission to discuss it because it is a really important piece of this puzzle.
- vii. Wertz notes that he had one or two minor issues with law enforcement bill that he will address tomorrow.
  - Senator Mizell thanked Wertz.
- viii. Andrepont noted that while the Commission is not planning to vote on any of the legislative bills today, they will be sure SB 63 is included in the vote for the May 2022 meeting.
  - Senator Mizell responded that she would appreciate if the Commission could support the bills today. Bills are going to committee this week. She would like to have support on the bill. She would like Commission to think about it; she said she does not need to be on the call when the discussion is happening. She believes the Commission needs to be seen as a team on this.
  - Chief Clark said that he doesn't want her to feel that she needs to leave the call for the Commission to discuss her bills.



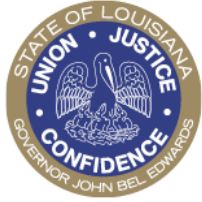
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- a. Michelle Johnson notified Senator Mizell that she would be willing to come to testify for the post-conviction relief bill. Senator Mizell noted that Johnson is on her list to call.
  - Senator Mizell will leave the call, and look for an email on the decision of the Commission.
- ix. Secretary Walters commended Senator Mizell for the DCFS bill, and she believes that this group will be very supportive. She thanked Senator Mizell for listening and coming up with a solution that is realistic for DCFS that also meets the gaps.
- x. Pittman asked for clarifications on what bills are Senator Mizell's, and if SB 63 is related to human trafficking.
  - Andrepont noted it is SB 115, SB 148, and SB 63.
  - Secretary Walters and Christy Tate clarified SB 63 and the role of DCFS under this bill.
- xi. Pittman asked if Senator Mizell is asking for the Commission to support the bills today.
  - Secretary Walters responds that she believes that was her request, since she is going to committee next week.
  - Tate noted that the amendments and fiscal notes, that came from DCFS's discussions with Senator Mizell, to SB 63 is not yet online.
  - Pittman asked if it would be appropriate to make a motion for an approval of her bills.
  - Taylor responded that a motion could be made that notes the Commission support of Senator Mizell's work so far.
  - Morace added that she thinks it would be appropriate.
  - Pittman notes that he does not want to make a motion to support the form that the bills are in now but a motion that would reflect that the Commission supports the bills proceeding on the grounds that the bills continue to be worked on. He said he is not sure how to formulate the motion.
  - Dr. Hunter noted that since a vote is not on the agenda, there will first need to be a motion to amend the agenda.
- d. Pitman makes a motion to add SB 63 to the agenda and to make all bills action items to discuss. Taylor seconded.
  - i. Amanda Perry asked if before we make motions, she wanted to inquire about the other 2021 annual report recommendations, such as the EMS mandatory training.
  - ii. Morace notes that though the mandatory training recommendation included two other facets—EMS training and school personnel training—those two were not picked up by a legislator this session. She notes that those items can be revisited again on the subcommittees.
  - iii. Taylor responds that she agrees that the issues are extremely important, but sometimes it is easier to pass these bills incrementally and adding other professions and agencies to it.
  - iv. Perry thanked Taylor for clarifying. She asked for clarification on the bills we would be voting on, as she would like more time to read through the bills before she feels comfortable voting. She does not feel prepared to vote today.



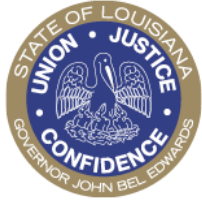


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- v. Andrepont added that providing members more time to review the bills was the justification of waiting until next meeting to hold a vote. She noted, however, that given Senator Mizell's request for a vote that it may be appropriate for the Commission to vote today.
- vi. Pittman notes that if the motion to amend the agenda passes, his motion will be to request that the legislature moves the bills forward, not a motion to endorse the bills in their current form.
  - Secretary Walters added that to Tate's point, SB 63 as it is online is not the bill that DCFS supports, and that Senator Mizell has not yet had time to introduce an amendment because they just agreed to the coming amendments yesterday. It is the amended version of SB 63 that DCFS supports and is excited about.
- e. Wertz offered to do a substitute motion to Pittman's motion. Pittman seconds.
- f. Chief Clark requested information on HB 638 and HB 561 before going forward with the motions.
  - i. Kent introduced Morgan Lamandre as present to speak on Freeman's bills, as she has been working closely with the Representative to develop the legislation.
  - ii. Previous motion tabled.
- g. Morgan Lamandre introduced Representative Freeman's bills HB 638 and HB 561
  - i. Lamandre notes that the recommendations came from the Commission's Annual Report.
  - ii. HB [561](#) on civil liability for sexual assault (extends prescriptive period to 10 years)
    - Lamandre noted that while the Commission's recommendation was to create a ten year prescriptive period with a three year look back window, this bill is not wholly in the form of the recommendation. The bill does provide a ten year prescriptive period, but does not have a look back period. In speaking with legislators, she was receiving pushback on the lookback period. Her goal is that there would be testimony in the committee requesting the look back period.
    - She notes that there is a goal for not just traffickers to be held civilly liable but also third party entities that contribute or benefit from trafficking, such as hotels. Currently, we only have a one year prescriptive period for third party liability. The bill also includes a clause on negligent tortfeasor fault and that prevents victims from being apportioned fault. This is a key piece that was not in the original recommendation, but during her research, she found it important to include.
    - Lamandre lastly mentions the piece of the bill that adds for exemplary damages for third parties. In speaking with civil law committee members, they have the biggest problem with exemplary damages for third parties. If necessary, she will amend the bill to limit exemplary damages just to the direct perpetrators, meaning human traffickers. She feels it would be a good compromise for the bill to survive. She asks if anyone has any questions.
  - iii. HB [638](#) on expungement of records for victims of human trafficking.



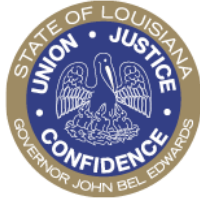
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- Lamandre presents HB 638. She notes that the bill is more of a place holder. It was a bill filed in 2020 by Mandy Landry. She worked with organizations who routinely do expungements, and came up with a draft that would reflect the Commission's recommendation: misdemeanors and felonies included, no time limits, free for survivors to file, etc. She has received a draft from the Justice and Accountability Center, who helped her with it, and sent it to Representative Joe Marino to provide input.
  - Lamandre notes that she has been talking to legislators before it goes to committee. She is not trying to rush the bills through committee. She knows that we can expect opposition on the committees, and testimony will be really important for both bills.
  - iv. Pittman asked if Lamandre would like the Commission to take action on the bills today.
    - Chief Clark believes the Commission to take up bills today and move them forward. He notes that he will need an amendment to the agenda, before the vote to support.
    - Wertz withdraws his previous substitute motion. Pittman withdraws previous motion.
- VII. Pittman made a motion to amend agenda to add SB 63 to the agenda for discussion. Wertz seconded motion to add items to agenda. One abstention. Motion is carried.
- VIII. Pittman made a motion that the Legislature move forward favorably with SB 63, SB 115, SB 148, HB 561, and HB 638. Wertz seconded the motion.
- a. Pittman clarifies that the motion is short of a full endorsement as they are not in their final forms, but the Commission wants to keep the bills moving forward.
  - b. Perry asked for clarity that we will not be voting for full support for the bills. She does not want the vote to be interpreted that the Commission is approving the bills exactly how they are written at this moment.
  - c. Secretary Walters noted that Pittman's wording of "moving forward favorably" allows for amendments at the committees and discussions to continue at the Chambers. She believes that the phrasing gives us room.
  - d. Andrepont clarifies that since we are voting on legislative items, the Commission will need a two-thirds vote to pass the motion as well as a roll call vote to take place. She adds that some Commission members might have to abstain from the vote because they have not yet received approved from their agencies.
    - i. Pittman asks if their vote effectively would be a no vote.
    - ii. Lamandre adds that an abstention does not count as a no vote.
  - e. Ashley Bourgeois leads roll call vote of members present.
    - i. Chief Tommy Clark – yay
    - ii. Bill Sommers – yay
    - iii. Secretary Marketa Garner Walters – yay
    - iv. Monica Taylor – yay
    - v. Richard Pittman – yay
    - vi. Amanda Perry – abstain





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- vii. Kathleen Richey – abstain
- viii. Bob Wertz – yay
- ix. Casey Morace – yay
- x. Lt Justin Berry – abstain
- f. 7 yays, three abstentions. Motion is carried.

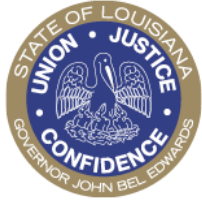
IX. Subcommittee Membership

Chief Tommy Clark

- a. Casey Morace notes that last meeting, the Commission voted to establish four subcommittees for 2022:
  - i. Labor trafficking
  - ii. Immigration
  - iii. Sex trafficking of adult victims
  - iv. Sex trafficking of minor victims
- b. Some members had also expressed that they would prefer a written documentation of the purpose and expectations of subcommittees. The OHTP put together the document, and everyone should have received the document. Morace asked if members had any questions regarding the document.
- c. Morace outlined the process of nominating someone or yourself by completing the link included in the agenda. The link will also be emailed out. The deadline to submit nominations for subcommittee membership is Friday, April 8, 2022, and the first subcommittee meetings will take place on April 21, 2022.
- d. Monica Taylor asked if the nominations are just for members of public who want to be involved on subcommittee.
  - i. Morace responded that the nomination form is for both Commission and Advisory Board members and interested parties.
- e. Secretary Walters asked again if the form was just for Commission. Morace clarified that anyone who wants to join the subcommittee would need to fill out the form.
- f. Morace notes that the document also includes a list of meeting dates.
- g. Amanda Perry asked if individuals who have previously sat on the subcommittees need to fill out the form too. Morace responded that yes, if you would like to join a subcommittee in 2022, you need to fill out the form.
  - i. Andrepont added that previous year's subcommittee members do not roll over to the following year, and the Commission starts with a blank slate each year depending on the subcommittees the Commission establishes.
  - ii. Chief Clark noted that the purpose of it is also to get an accurate count of who is serving on the subcommittees each year.

X. Other Business

- a. Andrepont noted that the next Commission meeting is May 19, 2022, and the first subcommittee meetings are April 21, 2022.
- b. Taylor wanted to let members know that the Southwest Louisiana Human Trafficking Taskforce is getting up and running led by the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff Tony Mancuso and District Attorney Steven Dwight. Taylor will be leading a two-day human trafficking training and will be attending their first taskforce meeting in April.
  - i. Secretary Walters asked Taylor to provide the dates in case DCFS can join.



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- ii. Taylor noted the dates are April 12 and 13<sup>th</sup> at the Office of Juvenile Justice Services building in Lake Charles. She also said she is happy to share her time during the training with others who are interested.
- c. Morace noted that there are some survivors are on the call today. She wanted to express her gratitude for them joining.
- d. Secretary Walters added that she wants to go on record thanking the subcommittee for their work and attention to details, and for providing the Commission members with such thorough information so they can make informed votes.
  - i. Chief commended Secretary Walters for her support and participation at every meeting. He thanked her for her leadership.

XI. Public Comment

- a. Erika Marlowe asked where the First Lady's event is taking place on April 3, 2022. Andrepont responded that it is taking place at the Four Seasons Hotel in New Orleans, and to please email her for any other questions regarding the event.
- b. Morace said that we can send out any upcoming trainings or events out to membership.

XII. Adjournment

- a. Secretary Walters made motion to adjourn. Taylor seconded. Adjourned at 3:17pm.