



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PROGRAMS AND PLANNING
OFFICE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission & Advisory Board

Meeting

October 21, 2021
1pm
Zoom Conference

- I. Call the Meeting to Order Chief Tommy Clark
HTPC Chair
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Mary Kate Andrepont called roll for the Commission and Advisory Board.
 - b. The following members of the Commission were present:
 - i. Chair- Chief Tommy Clark
 - ii. Co- Chair- DA Kristine Russell
 - iii. Bob Wertz
 - iv. Casey Morace
 - v. Gerald Millet
 - vi. Lieutenant Justin Berry
 - 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. Angela Wiggins-Harris
 - iv. Ashley Politz
 - v. Kate Shipley
 - vi. Hon. Kathleen Stewart Richey
 - vii. Linsey Barnard
 - viii. Peggy Babin
 - ix. Rafael de Castro
- I. Opening Remarks Chief Tommy Clark
 - a. Chief Tommy Clark
 - i. Chief Clark thanked everyone for attending and welcomed members. He welcomed Dr. Hunter to provide her remarks.
 - b. Dr. Dana Hunter



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- i. Dr. Hunter thanked everyone for joining the meeting. July 1st was the effective start date of the new Office of Human Trafficking Prevention. She noted that she receives calls at least every other day of people wanting to report instances of trafficking. She has been moving swiftly to get the new office up and running. They are working closely with Louisiana police partners. Creating this office has magnified to her what this issue looks like in our state—it is very real and present. The Governor and First Lady are very invested in this issue. Herself and the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention are working tirelessly to get things into place and are working closely with members on this Commission and partners across the state. Dr. Hunter notes that it may take a full year of hard work to begin to curb trafficking and its demand in our state.
- ii. The First Lady's Office has been working tirelessly as well.
 - First Lady Edwards held her 4th Global Summit on human trafficking last week in partnership with Texas and First Lady Abbotts. There were over 600 participants registered from all over the nation and globally. They provided really great information on online safety. Dr. Hunter will send out the information from last week's Summit. There's a link on the First Lady's website.
 - The First Lady has established a national coalition for the prevention of sex trafficking and is working with First Spouses across the nation. One of the biggest initiatives they will launch is a nation-wide campaign to highlight the issue of sex trafficking around major sporting events. Dr. Hunter asked members to mark their calendars for April 3, 2022. This will be a groundbreaking event during the NCAA tournament, highlighting the issue of human trafficking. Everyone will be receiving an invitation with sponsorship information. They are having an all-call meeting scheduled for November 4, 2021. Many on this call will receive that invitation. If you're interested in joining the all-call meeting, she asked attendees to reach out to her to get on the list.
 - This coming Monday, they are meeting with ThreeSixtyEight to talk about messaging. They want a survivor-informed awareness campaign to inform what the campaign should look like.
- iii. She is excited to announce that the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention has officially hired a program assistant, Ashley Bourgeois. She starts on Monday. She was previously the executive assistant for Natalie Laborde. She is excited to have Ashley back on board.
- iv. In addition, the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention have been doing a lot of outreach to federal and state law enforcement entities. She wants every player on board and to have a close, communicative relationship with law enforcement agencies.
 - She is excited that the Louisiana State Police is invested in this issue. The Office of Human Trafficking will have a State Police liaison. They will help with the hotline. As reports come through to state police and local law enforcement, she wants to ensure that those reports aren't left alone and for people to have trust in law enforcement that when reports are made, they will be investigated thoroughly. She is so thankful for our State Police partners.



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- She also had a very productive meeting with Homeland Security Investigations yesterday to meet all of our human trafficking coordinators across the state. As they identify victims and communicate with their victim assistance specialists, she wanted them to know that Louisiana also has regional human trafficking specialists across the state to assist.
- v. The Office of Human Trafficking Prevention has secured a contract with Light House, Allies against Slavery. Lighthouse is an automated database that allows them to connect and analyze CSE-IT data and other information surrounding victim services, partnerships, and collaborations. Texas has used the Light House system and found the cutting edge data really beneficial. Dr. Hunter is thankful to DCFS for sharing their data model and wants to build on what DCFS has previously done to move our data collection forward.
- vi. A draft is now in place for the statewide resource website: the Human Trafficking Prevention Resource Center of Louisiana. It is a state-wide database for survivors and service providers to access. It will go live in two months. Someone from her office will be reaching out to organizations across the state to request to list them on the interactive database. If there are any services your organization or agency can provide for survivors or at-risk youth, the office would love to include you. Within the next week or so, she'll be sending out an email to ask if your organization would be interested in being included.
- vii. She asked members to please not hesitate to reach out if there is anything her office can do.

II. **Guest Speaker:** Group Supervisor Greg Lowther, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations

- a. Dr. Hunter welcomed Greg Lowther, a group supervisor from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). He is based in New Orleans. He's responsible for documenting human and labor trafficking in the New Orleans area.
 - i. Lowther thanked Dr. Hunter for the introduction.
- b. Homeland Security Investigations is the investigative arm of Homeland Security. His field office oversees Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas. HSI has an enormous domestic and global footprint.
- c. HSI investigates human trafficking and is a leader in combatting transnational organizations engaging in human trafficking. They utilize a global enforcement response. The mission of HSI in human trafficking is twofold: to dismantle cross-border human trafficking organizations and minimizes the risk they pose to national security and our public safety, and secondly, they utilize a victim-centered approach.
- d. Lowther provided a PowerPoint presentation on the trafficking definitions, indicators, warning signs, and how to report to HSI. The HSI counter-human trafficking strategy is to prevent, protect, prosecute, and partner.
 - i. He reminded attendees that if someone you know is in a trafficking situation, call 911. Do not try to rescue them but be a cautious observer.
- e. To report trafficking, call the HIS direct tip line at 866-347- 2423 or the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373- 7888. Both lines are confidential and operate 24/7 with staff members speaking over 200 languages. Their call centers get leads out to respective law enforcement.



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- f. Lowther opened the floor to any questions.
- i. Senator Mizell asked Lowther about who will respond if a local person calls the HIS hotline number.
 - Lowther responded that the operator will call the HIS field office to respond. For a remote location, the operator will notify local police officers in the area.
 - Senator Mizell asked if there was a follow up to the hotline calls.
 - Lowther said yes, that they always want to ensure they get a response back because the leads are tracked as a reporting requirement.
 - Senator Mizell asked if their number is included on awareness material, such as flyers in bathroom stalls at truck stops.
 - Lowther said yes, that it is another part of their outreach. They go to various truck stops, work with NGOs to get the word out. They have pamphlets and brochures to get their numbers out there.
 - Senator Mizell asked if they give an account of the number of calls HIS receives on suspected human trafficking activity and the action taken. He said he can request the information for her from their national office. Dr. Hunter will provide him Senator Mizell's email.
 - ii. Dr. Hunter asked Lowther about turnaround time for response and follow up.
 - He noted that it depends on how the call comes in; they triage calls and it is left up to the individual field offices to determine. If it needs immediate reaction, then they will call right then.
 - Chief Clark added that at a local law enforcement level, they have a protocol for response. If you have a full dispatch, then an officer will follow up on the lead, and the Shift Supervisor is accountable to making sure that the lead was checked on. If they are contacted by HSI over the weekend for example, the lead will not lay until Monday.
 - iii. Lowther will send Dr. Hunter a copy of his power point along with contact information to all members.
 - iv. Dr. Hunter thanked him for taking time out of his day to speak with our members.
- III. **Old Business:** August 2021 Minutes Chief Tommy Clark
a. Chief Clark asked members to take a brief minute to review last meeting's minutes.
- IV. Vote to approve August 2021 Minutes Chief Tommy Clark
a. Discussion
i. No corrections noted.
b. Monica Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes. Angela Roberts seconded. Motion carried.
- V. **New Business:** Updates from Subcommittee Chief Tommy Clark
a. Sex trafficking of adults Tiffani Robinson
i. At the last subcommittee meeting, the subcommittee nailed down three legislative recommendations they are working on: civil suits, disabilities, and



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expungement. They will be putting those recommendations forward on the report.

- b. Sex trafficking of minors Kate Shipley
 - i. The subcommittee has identified 6 priorities, and members voted to narrow it down. The two main priorities they landed on are mandatory training and a feasibility study on placements. Within the two priorities, they broke into two working groups. The working group on mandatory training has decided to look into mandated training for law enforcement, schools, and EMS. For the feasibility study working group, they are looking to make recommendations on what the study will look like and how to implement it.
 - Christy Tate added that they are hoping someone will take it forward this legislative session.
- c. No update from labor trafficking given.

VI. Training Updates

Chief Tommy Clark

- a. Global Human Trafficking Summit Casey Morace
 - i. Casey Morace provided an update on last week's Global Human Trafficking Summit hosted by First Lady Edwards and First Lady Abbotts. One notable thing that she took away from it is that Texas is the first state to make buying sex a felony. She's hoping that is something we can look into in Louisiana to address the demand side of trafficking.
- b. Upcoming Truckers Against Trafficking training Monica Taylor
 - i. Monica Taylor is working with Truckers Against Trafficking (TaT) to hold a training in Shreveport on November 16. She will put the link to register for that in the chat box. Truckers Against Trafficking calls it a coalition-build; it is to introduce people from the bussing, trucking, and casino industry to law enforcement on what human trafficking is and what they can do to prevent it. There will be a panel discussion in the afternoon, and national speakers are being brought in. Taylor will also lead a presentation on Human Trafficking 101.
- c. Massage Therapy Board training
 - i. Taylor has scheduled the training with the Massage Therapy Board on November 5, as required by a bill that passed this last legislative session. The training is a one-day training. She will share their contact information with Dr. Hunter.
- d. Wellspring/Northeast LA Training Mary Kate Andrepont
 - i. Mary Kate Andrepont provided an update on Empower 225's two-day training in partnership with Well Spring. They trained stakeholders and law enforcement throughout the rural parishes of Northeast, Louisiana. They received great feedback. Notably, they received many questions from law enforcement on how to identify victims during traffic stops. They provided them with resource pocket cards.
 - ii. Morace mentioned that the Blue Campaign also has great resource materials for law enforcement and their material can be requested online.

VII. Announcements: Legislative Recommendations

Chief Tommy Clark

- a. Subcommittees need to send in an outline of each legislative recommendation to executive team by December 3, 2021



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- i.* Reminder: Full subcommittee reports due December 10, 2021.
 - b.* Quorum of Commission members must be present to vote on recommendations at the December meeting.
 - c.* Leslie Chambers met with the executive team. At the last meeting, it was determined that the proposals will be continued to be vetted by this body and voted on at the December meeting.
 - d.* Dr. Hunter asked for an overview of those policies from the subcommittees.
 - i.* The minors subcommittee is recommending mandated training to law enforcement, school personnel, and EMS, as well as a feasibility study.
 - ii.* The adult subcommittee is recommending legislation on trafficking of a person with a disability, extending civil suits period to 10 years, and expungement for victims of human trafficking.
 - e.* Chief said that to ensure there is a quorum at the next meeting, we will call members and make sure they or their proxies are present.
- VIII. Topics for Next Meeting Chief Tommy Clark
 - a.* Annual report
 - b.* Vote on subcommittee's legislative recommendations
- IX. Public Comment Chief Tommy Clark
 - a.* Chief asking for any public comment.
 - b.* No comments made.
- X. Other Business Chief Tommy Clark
 - a.* Chief said that he will reach out to the executive team about a possible in-person meeting in December. We'll make sure everyone is socially distancing and following COVID guidelines.
- XI. Adjournment Chief Tommy Clark
 - a.* Monica Taylor motioned to adjourn the meeting. Amanda Perry seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:09pm.