



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PROGRAMS AND PLANNING
CHILDREN'S CABINET

Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission & Advisory Board

Meeting

Thursday, January 21, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Zoom

I. Call the Meeting to Order

- a. Commission Chair, Chief Tommy Clark, called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

- a. Michele M. Rabalais called roll for the Commission and Advisory Board.
- b. The following members of the Commission were present:
- Chief Tommy Clark, Jr. – LA Association of Chiefs of Police
 - Casey Morace – Chair, Advisory Board
 - Dr. Dana Hunter – Executive Director, Children's Cabinet
 - Secretary Marketa Garner-Walters – DCFS
 - Gerald Millett – Dept. of Education
 - District Attorney Kristine Russell – 17th JDC
 - Monica Taylor – LA Attorney General's Office
 - Angela White-Bazile – Louisiana Supreme Court Designee
- c. The following members of the Advisory Board were present:
- Alliece Cole – Empower 225
 - Laurie McGeehee – Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Board
 - Michelle Johnson – Survivor/E225
 - James Kelly – Covenant House
 - Laura "Clayton" Kleinpeter – LA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
 - Reshelle Marino – Louisiana School Counselors' Association
 - Amanda Perry – Dept. of Health
 - Kathleen Stewart-Richey – LA Court Appointed Special Advocates
 - Kathryn "Kate" Shipley – Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers and CAC Liaison to Louisiana Children's Anti-Trafficking Initiative



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III. Opening Remarks

- a. Chief Tommy Clark, HTPC Chair, welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for joining the meeting.
- b. Dr. Dana Hunter introduced First Lady Donna Edwards.
 - i. First Lady Donna Edwards thanked everyone in attendance for their continued work in preventing Human Trafficking. First Lady Edwards is looking forward to what can be accomplished in the upcoming year. In addition, she brought up the following:
 - a. January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month
 - b. A need to increase education and training
 - c. Need for a public awareness campaign to be launched that is easily understood
 - d. Upcoming Global Summit where best practices across the states and globally can be shared
 - e. The Governor and First Lady will work with the new Presidential Administration especially in terms of Human Trafficking
 - f. Will continue to look for new opportunities to share information.
- c. Chief Tommy Clark stated that the Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission & Advisory Board(s) fully support the First Lady's Global Summit.

IV. Old Business: Approval of Minutes

Chief Tommy Clark requested review and approval of the December 17, 2021 Minutes. Monica Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Secretary Marketa Garner-Walters seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

V. Vote to Approve Minutes

- a. Monica Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Secretary Marketa Garner-Walters seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

VI. Structure of the Commission and Advisory Board

- a. There was some discussion concerning the structure of the Commission and Advisory Board meetings. 53% of the Board agreed that the Commission and the Advisory Board meet separately in interim months between joint meetings.

VII. Vote on Structure of Meetings

- a. An email will be sent out with dates for upcoming meetings.



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VIII. New Business: 2021 Legislative Priorities

- a. Presentations (approx. 5 minutes each)
 - i. Secretary Walters
 - Act 409 serves to create a statewide office of Human Trafficking in the Governor's Office. This would include a full time director with two other positions. The Human Trafficking director will be located in the Programs and Planning section of the Governor's Office and will oversee grants management as well as monitor and evaluate statewide efforts.
 - ii. Casey Morace and Michelle Johnson
 - Casey Morace met with stakeholders to discuss the Equality Model. She found that there were few discrepancies and most of the information provided was agreed upon by all parties.
 - Michelle Johnson reported on upcoming proposed legislation in regards to Criminal Justice Reform, including regional Task Force being created for victims of Human Trafficking to assure that cases are being properly investigated. Discussion followed.
- b. Discussion
 - i. Casey Morace stated that often in cases in small rural areas there can be a conflict of interest. In these cases it is important that law agencies from other areas are called in to investigate.
 - ii. There was discussion that there should be a special Human Trafficking Special Division Court that prosecutes only cases of Human Trafficking.
 - iii. In Shreveport there is a mandatory 'Buyer Beware Program' for those who have been arrested on charges of soliciting a prostitute and it was stated that this should be a statewide program.
 - iv. Need special prosecutors that work with Human Trafficking victims that treat them as a victim and not as a criminal
 - v. Mandatory training for criminal justice personnel from patrol officers to Judges
 - vi. Victims can have other charges brought against them besides just prostitution
 - vii. Revise statute of limitations for civil actions against hotels
 - viii. Trafficking of persons with intellectual disabilities, the trafficker should be prosecuted as if the victim was a minor
 - ix. Have all prosecutors fully training regarding Human Trafficking
 - x. Michelle Johnson and Alliece Cole are available to train law enforcement officers upon request

IX. Subcommittee Memberships

- a. Chief Tommy Clark requested that all members join one of the four sub-committees. Casey Morace supplied a link to a google form that allows each Commission/Advisory Board Member to select a sub-committee;
 - i. Three options:
 - HTPC Chair
 - Sex trafficking of Adults
 - Sex Trafficking of Minors
 - Labor Trafficking and Immigration



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- b. Membership selection
 - i. Casey Morace will send out information regarding sub-committees after the meeting.

- X. **Annual Report**
 - a. Chief Tommy Clark requested that members review the copy of the Annual Report that was sent to all members.
 - b. Discussion followed. It was requested that every member review the Annual Report and send any edits to either Dr. Dana Hunter or Casey Morace.

- XI. **Vote to Approve Annual Report**
 - a. Casey Morace launched a poll for a vote for approval of the Annual Report and there was a 100% approval through the google poll.
 - b. Monica Taylor made a motion to approve the Annual Report. Secretary Marketa Garner-Walters seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

- XII. **Public Comment**
 - a. No comment(s)

- XIII. **Other Business**
 - a. Dr. Dana Hunter will continue to keep the Commission/Advisory Board apprised of any legislation that is being drafted.
 - b. Monica Taylor will research the constitutionality of being able to have/keep survivors at the table to include victims' voices and survivors.

- XIV. **Adjournment**

Monica Taylor made a motion to adjourn. Kristine Russell seconded the motion. All approved. Meeting adjourned.