



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

Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission & Advisory Board

Minutes

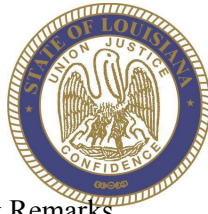
May 20, 2021

1-3pm

Zoom

Agenda

- I. Call the Meeting to Order *Chief Tommy Clark*
HTPC Chair
- A. Chief Tommy Clark called the meeting to order.
- II. Roll Call *Mary Kate Andrepont*
- A. Michele M. Rabalais called roll for the Commission and Advisory Board.
- B. The following members of the Commission were present:
- i. Chief Tommy Clark, Jr. – LA Association of Chiefs of Police; chair
 - ii. D.A. Kristine Russell – Lafourche Parish (17th JDC); co-chair
 - iii. Bill Sommers— Deputy Secretary, Office of Juvenile Justice
 - iv. Bob Wertz—LCLE and Administration of Criminal Justice
 - v. Casey Morace – Chair, Advisory Board
 - vi. Gerald Millet— LA Dept. of Education
 - vii. Colonel Kenny VanBuren by proxy— State Police; Chad Gremillion
 - viii. Sundee Winder by proxy—Dept of Health; Amanda Perry
- C. The following members of the Advisory Board were present:
- i. Casey Morace— Methodist Children's Home; chair
 - ii. Michelle Johnson— Empower 225; co-chair
 - iii. Alliece Cole – Empower 225
 - iv. Angela Roberts—Louisiana Families In Need of Services
 - v. L. Clayton Kleinpeter-- Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
 - vi. Delery Rice—Office of the Lady Office
 - vii. Kate Shipley by proxy – Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers and CAC Liaison to Louisiana Children's Anti-Trafficking Initiative; Leanne McCallum
 - viii. Kathleen Richey—Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
 - ix. Linsey Barnard—Purchased: Not For Sale
 - x. Rafael de Castro—Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA)



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III. Opening Remarks

Chief Tommy Clark

- A. Chief Clark thanked everyone for being present. He understands some members are not able to be present due to the weather. He introduced Dr. Dana Hunter to give remarks on behalf of the Governor's Office.

B. Governor's Office

Dr. Dana Hunter

- i. Dr. Hunter recognized the recent weather in the Baton Rouge and Lake Charles area and offered her prayers and thoughts to any members and families across the state who have been affected by it.
- ii. She noted that there has been more progress made in the last few years on the issue of human trafficking than in the last decade, due to our Governor and First Lady's leadership and the member's leadership. She thanked members for always being willing and available to partner with the Governor's Office.
- iii. Dr. Hunter acknowledged that some new members have been appointed and will be joining us. Through statute, some members had to be newly appointed or renominated. At this meeting and next meeting, the Commission and Advisory Board may see some new faces. She welcomed them and is excited to have their expertise at the table.
- iv. Dr. Hunter noted that Leslie Chambers from the Governor's Office is on the call and she will be talking more on the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention. The bill is moving swiftly through and they expect it to pass. They are looking forward to hopefully having this new office within the Governor's Office and to continuing the great work that is already being done in our state.
- v. On May 5th, the Governor's Office worked closely with the First Lady's Office and the Coushatta tribe of Louisiana to create a proclamation for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Day, a nationally recognized day to highlight the issue of missing and murdered women and girls across the country. She notes that this is an issue that is closely tied to human trafficking. There are close to 6,000 native women and girls who have been murdered over the last several years. Her office is working closely to house this new task force that Governor Edwards signed to create on May 5th. They had a meeting today regarding the taskforce. They are excited that Louisiana has joined with other states to highlight and stress this important issue of missing and murdered indigenous women. She said that the Commission and Advisory Board will hear more about it from her as they make progress, but they are expecting to have the first meeting in July. She thanked Delery Rice and the First Lady's Office for their assistance in moving the issue forward.
- vi. Lastly, the Children Cabinet has been implementing the Louisiana Child and Youth Trafficking Collaborative (LCYTC) over the last two and half years. Through US DOJ funding, they have allowed Louisiana to have dedicated human trafficking coordinators to address trafficking across the state. In every region across the state, there is a dedicated staff member who is serving as a point of contact for human trafficking cases of minors, for advocacy and outreach, and to improve outcomes for children and youth. It is now the time to reapply for the grant. It is a highly competitive grant, but they are going forward with reapplying. The official end date of the grant is March 2022, but they hope to be refunded. She will be reaching out to members for letters of support from their offices or agencies.



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- vii. Dr. Hunter noted that later in the agenda, she will talk about several trainings that are in progress and in the works. She introduced Delery Rice to speak on an update from the First Lady's Office.

C. Office of the First Lady

Delery Rice

- i. Delery Rice thanked Dr. Hunter for the recap. She wanted to relay a message from the First Lady Donna Edward; she always wants the Commission and Advisory Board to know that she recognized that members are the ones doing the hard work and appreciate the time dedicated to this both in their jobs and on the Commission and Advisory Board. The fact that members work so hard on the issue of human trafficking does not go unnoticed by the First Lady and her office.
- ii. Rice asked that if there is anything the First Lady's Office can do to support members, do not hesitate to reach out to her. She will put her email in the chat box. The First lady is committed to ending human trafficking in our state.
- iii. First Lady Edwards has been working nation-wide to bring awareness to human trafficking and elevate the work we do here in Louisiana. Two years ago, she started hosting the Global Human Trafficking Summits, inviting all First Spouses across the US. They have received an overwhelmingly positive response to the Summits. Last Summit had over 400 people present. She is quickly becoming the go-to person in country for issues on human trafficking. Rice wanted to recognize how hard the First Lady works on this issue.
 - a. From these Summits, they have now developed a national coalition against human trafficking. The purpose is to raise awareness and promote awareness campaigns throughout each state. She hopes to create awareness campaigns around the big sporting events that tend to attract surges in human trafficking. Louisiana will host the first one in March 2022 around the NCAA Final Four matches. Dr. Hunter and Rice have been put in charge of this first awareness event. She asked that if members have not received an email about this or are not on their contact list for future meetings, let her or Dr. Hunter know if they would like to be involved. The NCAA tournament is on March 2nd through 4th, and the awareness event will be held on Sunday, March 3rd. They do not have all the details but it will include a press conference and a lot of awareness events. She hopes that each of member's agencies that work in human trafficking could have a display booth at the event. It will kick off Louisiana's awareness campaign. They already have other states lined up for similar events in the next few years. She hopes Louisiana will continue to have a hand in making these happen.
 - b. If members have any questions, Rice is happy to provide more information.
- iv. Rice thanked everyone again for all the work they are doing. She asked members to please reach out if she can help with anything. She says that First Lady Edwards is so much more accessible than members probably think.
- v. Dr Hunter noted that her office and the First Lady's office have several upcoming trainings they are collaborating on, which she'll update on in the agenda.

IV. Announcements

Chief Tommy Clark

A. Date change for next meeting: August 19, 2021

- i. The July meeting is cancelled due to trainings and conferences during the month of July. The next meeting will be August 19, 2021 from 1pm-3pm. Chief Clark asked that members make sure you note those dates.



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- V. Old Business: March 2021 Minutes* *Chief Tommy Clark*
- A. Chief Clark requested review and approval of the January 21, 2021 minutes.
 - B. No corrections were noted.
- VI. Vote to Approve Minutes*
- A. Casey Morace made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Bob Wertz seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.
- VII. Legislative Update* *Leslie Chambers*
- A. Leslie Chambers, Criminal Justice Policy Advisor to the Governor, thanked everyone for having her speak today for some legislative update.
 - B. First, HB 227 was filed by Representative Wheat is state police bill that allows state police to issue a subpoena duces tecum for any electronic or social media account that is possibly connected to human trafficking activity. Initially, the bill was opposed by the Criminal Defense Lawyers of Louisiana, but by the time the bill made it to the Senate to be voted on, they were okay with the bill and there was no opposition. Both chambers have passed HB 227, and the next step is for it to be signed by the Governor.
 - C. SB 170 by Ronnie Johns creates the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention in the Governor's Office. The bill has been reported out of the Legislative Bureau with no amendments and reported favorably from House Governmental Affairs. It is now waiting to go to the House floor for debate.
 - D. Lastly, HB 67 by Representative Mandie Landry would have decriminalized prostitution and related statutes in the criminal code. Representative Landry decided to voluntarily defer the bill after three hours of testimony.
 - E. Chambers asked if anyone had any questions to please let her know.
 - F. Chief Clark thanked Chambers. Chief Clark asked if any other member had an update regarding any other legislative bills. He is aware that many Commission and Advisory Board members are in and out of the capitol during this time.
 - i. Chambers add that there were legislative proposals that some stakeholders were interested in pursuing next year. Though they wanted to pursue them this year, she knows that Mary Kate Andrepont, Alliece Cole, and Michelle Johnson are interested in pursuing legislation next year. She encourages everyone to revisit those proposals at some point ahead of the 2022 sessions in order to ensure the kinks are figured out and to present something that members can agree to support.
 - ii. Chief Clark recommends those legislative proposals start in committees and grow from there.
- VIII. New Business: Updates from Subcommittees* *Chief Tommy Clark*
Leanne McCallum
- A. Labor trafficking
 - i. Leanne McCallum, Chair of the labor trafficking committee, provided the update. At their past few meetings, they revisited some existing recommendations that were made in past reports. They looked at how they

hope to structure future actions. One of their big goals is to train all Commission members in labor trafficking. She noted that, since we're at the top of the pyramid, it is so important that all of our Commission members are aware of all



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types of trafficking. The subcommittee also discussed bringing more partners to the table who serve communities that are impacted by labor trafficking, inclusive of immigrant service providers and providers who work with vulnerable youth.

B. Sex trafficking of adults

Tiffani Robinson

- i. Tiffani Robinson, chair of the sex trafficking of adults subcommittee, provided the update. She noted that, similar to other groups, they looked at previous reports and recommendations and decided to focus on items to implement this year. They have added some new members. The subcommittee identified 9 items they hope to address, including legislative proposals for next sessions. Those proposals include legislation on victims with disabilities and expungement for adult victims. Robinson thanked MIP for the google drive idea. The subcommittee is using a google drive to map out resources. They don't want to reinvent the wheel, but want to start particularly looking to fill gaps in rural areas. Another idea is a database for identification by partnering with law enforcement when suspected victims or traffickers are pulled over. She also noted that at the Chief of Police Association conference, Monica Taylor, the secretary of the subcommittee, will be surveying the Chiefs about the needs and issues that are facing rural area with regard to human trafficking.

C. Sex trafficking of minors

Maria Isabella Pontoriero

- i. Maria Isabella Pontoriero (MIP), secretary of the subcommittee for sex trafficking of minors, provided the update. They have had a productive past few weeks. They met as a subcommittee and reviewed previous reports and the recommendations that have been made, including the Act 409 report. As a subcommittee, they have decided—instead of continually identifying gaps—they want to capitalize on those recommendations and work on addressing the gaps. The executive team of the subcommittee met yesterday and they will be sending out a survey to subcommittee members to rank the gaps in terms of priorities, then create 3-4 working groups to address the gaps identified. They realize that there has been a lot of work centered around identifying gaps, but now they are ready to move forward with a plan to address them.
- ii. Morace added that MIP will be sending out a Survey Monkey to subcommittee members soon to be filled out by June 2nd. She asked members to be on the lookout for the survey.

IX. Training Updates

Chief Tommy Clark

A. Governor's Office-coordinated trainings

Dr. Dana Hunter

- i. Dr. Hunter said we have a plethora of trainings coming up, that we are collaborating with a number of partners across the state.
- ii. First, the Louisiana Child and Youth Collaborative is developing and planning to host a pilot "Train the Trainer" on July 15. It will be a one-day training for a few selective agencies that are interested in state-wide training. They anticipate opening up the "Train the Trainer" sessions to any agency interested in being a part of it. For this one on July 15, they are excited to train and host D.A.R.E.

The Louisiana D.A.R.E Association will have representatives present that will go out statewide to train other D.A.R.E officers. EMS providers will be present. They have already started training EMS. Wildlife and Fisheries are a new agency that has come on board, thanks to the First Lady's Office. They have a training academy, but LCYTC will train them using their US DOJ-approved standardized



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training tool. She is excited that they are willing to use their training materials. Ochsner Health System is also interested in using the training statewide as well with all of their medical providers. Again, they are excited to have them on board for this July 15 training.

- iii. The Governor's Office is working closely with the Louisiana State Police-- thanks to Chad Gremillion and Heather Owens--the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the First Lady's Office to host a group out of Illinois, Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans. They are coming down to host three trainings in Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, and Shreveport. The trainings are specifically for physicians, first responders, and medical providers. They have one date set for the training, possibly July 19. The other two they are working to schedule those dates, likely between July and August. Between July and August, there will be 3 trainings statewide for physicians and medical providers.
- iv. The D.A.R.E Association's annual conference is July 21, 2021. The First Lady will speak to their organization, and the trainer that is attending the LCYTC training will also train all the D.A.R.E. officers present.
- v. Lastly, Dr. Hunter added that the Louisiana Chief Association is hosting their annual conference, and Chief Clark has allowed Louisiana State Police, the Governor's Office, Attorney General's Office, and the First Lady's Office to have a spot on the agenda. A few other service providers on the call will be joining as well. They are excited for this opportunity to train all the Chief of Police statewide.
- vi. She noted that entities across the state are coming forward to request training and to get additional knowledge on human trafficking. She asked members to please reach out to her if they need any follow up information or would like to be included.

B. Louisiana Chief of Police annual conference *Chief Tommy Clark*

- i. Chief Clark thanked Dr. Hunter. He added that the Chief of Police conference will be July 19-22 at Riverfront Center in Alexandria. He noted that, being that he's the Vice President and incoming President, he is inviting anyone from the Commission and Advisory Board who would like to come to join. He noted that Dr. Hunter will be presenting on July 22nd.

C. Louisiana District Attorney Association conferences *D.A. Kristine Russell*

- i. D.A. Kristine Russell announced the upcoming trainings for District Attorney's Association. On July 9th and 10th in Lafayette, the LDAA will be having their Human Trafficking training seminar. Registration is free and there are still openings, if anyone is interested. She asked that members reach out to her if they have any questions and she will be happy to provide more information.
- ii. D.A. Russel spoke on the LDAA's Prosecution Manual, which will give guidance to all the offices on how to prosecute human trafficking cases. They have promised her that she will have a draft to review by next week. The manual will be finalized next month and distributed digitally and in hard copies.
- iii. The 43rd Annual Conference scheduled for the end of June will have a session on the Prosecution Manual to begin educating the prosecutors. She is very excited about this development and will be sitting on the panel. There is also a session on Truckers Against Trafficking. She noted that it is nice to see that there will be several sessions on human trafficking to start preparing the offices. She will report back to us on the training after they are completed.



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- iv. Chief Clark thanked D.A. Russel. He said that we want to support D.A. Russell and LDAA to ensure these cases are getting prosecuted.
- D. Mid-South Human Trafficking Summit *Michelle Johnson*
 - i. Jena Maughan was scheduled to speak on the upcoming Mid-South Human Trafficking Summit. Johnson said that Jena had to jump off the call unexpectedly but noted that the conference is now at capacity.
 - ii. Chief Clark added that that is good news that they are at capacity.
- X. Topics for Next Meeting *Chief Tommy Clark*
 - A. Morace would like to add training updates to be discussed in the next meeting as well as legislative updates.
 - B. Chief Clark added that the subcommittees will still be meeting in June.
 - C. Chief Clark introduced the Annual Report and noted that the executive team and subcommittee chairs will be getting together to discuss it and get a rough draft out to members. We should have more information about the report at the next meeting.
- XI. Public Comment *Chief Tommy Clark*
 - A. Chief Clark opens the floor for public comment. No public comment.
- XII. Other Business *Chief Tommy Clark*
 - A. Chief Clark opens the floor for other business to be discussed. He asked that any new members introduce themselves.
 - i. Linsey Barnard introduced herself. She is with Hub Ministries' Purchased: Not for Sale out of Shreveport, Louisiana. They work with women who are sold and trafficked.
 - a. Chief Clark welcomed her to the Advisory Board and thanked her for the work she has already done.
 - B. Chief Clark asked if there was any other business that needed to come before the members before the meeting closes.
 - i. Bill Sommers said he received a brochure in mail yesterday from Stand For Hope. They will be hosting a community-wide human trafficking training in Crowley, Louisiana and will put their information in the chat box, if anyone is interested in attending.
 - C. Morace added that she will stay on the Zoom call after the meeting closes in case anyone else needs to put something in the chat. She also invited anyone new who would like to join a subcommittee, please reach out to herself, Chief Clark, or Mary Kate Andrepont.
 - D. Chief Clark thanked Sommers and Morace for that information. He added that he sees the MDTs are coming back online. He encouraged members to look out for those meetings and support them.
- XIII. Adjournment *Chief Tommy Clark*
 - A. Motion to adjourn by Bob Wertz and seconded by Gerald Millet. Meeting adjourned.