

The Office of
**HUMAN TRAFFICKING
PREVENTION**
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PROGRAMS AND PLANNING
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Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission & Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2022

1:30 pm

Louisiana State Capitol, 4th Floor Press Room

- 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. Co- Chair- DA Kristine Russell
 - iii. Bob Wertz
 - iv. Casey Morace
 - v. Captain Belinda Murphy
 - vi. Sec. Marketa Walters; designee Lauren Brocksmith
 - vii. Monica Taylor
 - viii. Richard Pittman
 - ix. Senator Beth Mizell
 - x. Amanda Perry; designee Jennifer Hannon
- c. The following members of the Advisory Board were present:
- i. Chair- Casey Morace
 - ii. Co-Chair- Michelle Johnson
 - iii. Alliece Cole
 - iv. D.A. Kristine Russell
- III. Opening Remarks Chief Tommy Clark
- a. Chief Clark welcomed members to meeting in person. He noted that it has been a while since we had an in-person meeting. While we are not requiring masks, he encourages attendees and members to take any steps necessary to be comfortable.
- b. Chief Clark recognized a new Commission member, Louisiana State Police's Captain Belinda Murphy, who replaced Justin Berry as the LSP designee.
- c. Office of Human Trafficking Prevention Remarks Dr. Dana Hunter

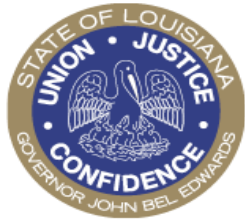


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- i. Dr. Dana Hunter provided an update on key initiatives of the OHTP. First Lady Edwards regrets she couldn't be here today, but she is passionate about the work of prevention and continuing her efforts.
- ii. Dr. Hunter announced the LCYTC Accessibility Initiative. In 2021, the Governor's Office was awarded a second round of funding from OVC. They are so thrilled to have a second round of funding of 1.5 million dollars, and to use the funding to improve the state's response to child trafficking. She noted that over the last several years, members have heard much about sex trafficking, but over the next few years, the grant will be focusing on labor trafficking and family facilitated trafficking. Labor trafficking is happening in our state but it is under-identified. The grant will allow us to educate more of our providers on labor trafficking. They are creating a curriculum and training solely dedicated to labor trafficking, and are also focusing on family facilitated, or familial, trafficking.
 - The grant also has a state team, comprised of FINS, OJJ, and DCFS, and they meet on a monthly basis to improve our response to trafficking at the state level and within these agencies.
- iii. Dr. Hunter asked members to save the date for First Lady Edwards' Virtual Global Human Trafficking Summit on October 6, 2022. As many members are aware, First Lady Edwards has been hosting these virtual summits over the last few years in partnership with other states and other First Spouses. She invites all the members to join, and they will receive an email about it.
- iv. Dr. Hunter noted that the OHTP has a partnership with FEMA and GOHSEP and are working on a disaster awareness plan with a subcommittee working group. The roundtables included FEMA and other key partners to discuss what human trafficking looks like post disaster and to talk about awareness materials needed. We know that traffickers prey upon the vulnerabilities people experience after storms. The office is strengthening these partnerships with these key agencies.
- v. The OHTP is also partnering with Healthcare Systems to improve their response to human trafficking victims and their ability to identify victims. The office has worked closely with Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical System to train staff, and have created a special badge buddy for their staff to wear with key human trafficking indicators. They are in conversation with the University Medical Center and other systems to disseminate these badges. Dr. Hunter recommended that if members have a healthcare system in their region that would be interested, they can provide them the design template to print at no cost.
 - Senator Mizell asked if training to hospital staff is mandatory.
 - a. Dr. Hunter noted it is voluntarily, but when we offer the badge buddy, we are also providing training.
- vi. Dr. Hunter also notes that the Office has developed awareness materials for providers and partners to borrow and disseminate, including awareness flyers, indicator cards, badge buddies, etc. Members can reach out to the office if they need any materials.

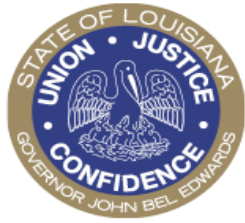


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- d. Chief Clark asked everyone in the room to provide introductions of their name, title, and agency.
- IV. **Old Business:** May 2022 Minutes Chief Tommy Clark
- a. Chief Clark opened the floor for discussion of minutes.
 - b. Bob Wertz made a motion to approve May 2022 Minutes. Monica Taylor seconded. All in favor. May minutes approved.
- V. **Guest Speaker:** Allies Against Slavery, 2022 Louisiana Human Trafficking Data Report
- a. Becky Austen from Allies Against Slavery provided a presentation overviewing the 2022 Louisiana Annual Human Trafficking Data Report and information they are collecting on Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) for screening children and youth.
 - b. Chief Clark opened floor for any questions.
 - i. Senator Mizell inquired about CSE IT screening, and what is the next step for serving that child if they are identified.
 - Andrepont noted that for providers that are trained, the next step is to refer to a CAC or Care Coordination Team.
 - ii. Pittman asked about scaling the screening tool, and what the process is.
 - Andrepont provided overview of the CSE-IT, not as a diagnoses tool but an initial screening tool to determine concern level of trafficking and next steps. They are CSE-IT trainers across the state that can train others on using CSE-IT and adopting it.
 - Austen of Alllies and Against Slavery spoke to what Texas is doing with the CSE-IT. Though the recommendation is universal screenings, when providers cannot screen universally, they are screening high risk youth.
 - Alliece Cole noted that she has seen that when they train an entity (for example schools or prison system) and those workers identify potential trafficking, then they know to refer the person out.
 - iii. Captain Murphy recommended that we share this information and training with school districts for counselors, and they can be educated on implementing it with their continuing education.
 - Morace noted some parts of the state people have been really successful in getting into schools for training, such as Shreveport. Morace said she has not been successful in Ruston.
 - Senator Mizell noted that we are just now getting law enforcement trained.
 - Taylor responded that that is not completely true. Law enforcement was previously not required, but many officers have been trained in human trafficking. Regarding counselors, she noted that not every school has counselors, and they don't deal with problem children. The resource officers deal with the problem children. She notes that she does not know of many schools that have permanent guidance counselors in their schools.
 - Judge Richey noted that recently the legislature passed mandatory ACES training, and maybe human trafficking can be incorporated there.



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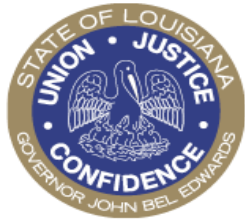
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- Johnson noted that E225 recently heard from a guidance counselor in East Baton Rouge.
 - Jennifer Hannon mentioned the Local Governing Entities should be represented on MDTs, as they work with school social workers.
 - Saul noted that FINS Officers are in the schools; they have directory of FINS officers around the state.
 - Morace noted that mandatory training in schools is difficult. She has spoken with a School Board Superintendent and for them to get training in Love146, they have to get parental consent.
- c. Dr. Hunter noted that if others are interested in CSE-IT or other trainings, they can email our office.
- d. Chief Clark thanked Allies Against Slavery for their work and their presentation.

VI. New Business: Legislative Updates

Mary Kate Andrepont

- a. Andrepont provided an overview of the legislation that passed this session that the Commission supported: SB 115, SB 148, and SB 63. This was a direct result of the Commission, Advisory Board, and subcommittees work and expertise.
- b. Dr. Hunter also thanked members for their support and research. As a result, the state has been able to get additional funding to serve victims of trafficking and to help with the care coordination model. Three years ago the state had no funding.
- c. Senator Beth Mizell provided an overview of the bills. She noted that she is privileged to be here, and she feels the energy in the room. She thanked Dr. Hunter. She said she is already thinking about possibilities for next year.
- i. SB 115 – [Act 538](#) – Mizell said many of her local law enforcement did not know about human trafficking. Mizell thanked Bob Wertz with LCLE for his work and support.
 - Capt. Murphy said that she has watched the LCLE trainings and they are excellent.
 - ii. SB 148 – [Act 130](#) - Senator Mizell thanked Michelle Johnson for testifying for the bill. She said there were legislators on the committees who didn't know what human trafficking was, and it took putting a face to a name. She believes that trafficking is too clinical of a word, and Johnson put the face on it. They named the bill The Michelle Johnson Act, and lives will be changed as a result.
 - iii. SB 63 – [Act 662](#) – Mizell noted that prior to the bill, DCFS could only serve children whose parents are culpable. This bill makes it where oversight of all minor victims of sex trafficking go under DCFS.
 - iv. Mizell also noted that got an update from Louisiana Department of Health on their trafficking awareness posters. LDH is translating the posters in Mandarin and Cantonese. She thinks it is very important that we have materials translated.
- d. Wertz provided an update on Act 538 roll out. Wertz noted that Louisiana POST Council identified that investigating and being knowledgeable about human trafficking is better at in-service level rather than basic training level. At basic training, there is not enough time to train. Over the last 4-5 years, LCLE had developed seven human trafficking training



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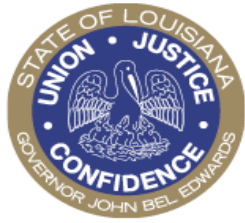
modules on both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. They were optional in past but now they are mandatory through Act 538. Officers must complete the entire curriculum of seven credit hours. The training is completely rolled out.

- i. Dr. Hunter asked how members can get information to local LE if they reached out looking for information about the training.
 - ii. Wertz noted they are 505 LE agencies, and each one is required to designate a training coordinator. Staff person at LCLE are in touch with the training coordinators. Those coordinators can see who has or has not completed the training. He recommends directing agencies to their training coordinator.
- e. Dr. Hunter invited Terrel Kent to provide any remarks. Kent added that from her perspective as a former prosecutor, she is very familiar with Johnson's case. She is glad to hear that victims have recourse to have their victims expunged. This legislation that was brought was very important. She thanked Mizell for bringing forward those resources, and she did not realize that state did not have funding prior. Previously, law enforcement were voluntarily going through human trafficking training, and she thanked law enforcement community for their hard work and willingness to support the new training bill.
- f. Andrepont was not able to provide an update on other notable bills related to human trafficking that passed this session, but she recommended members refer to the agenda and review these bills.
- i. HB 64 – Act [202](#) on definition of a child to under the age of 18 (instead of 17)
 - ii. HB 648 – [Act 487](#) on Crime Victims Reparations—included relocations as a reparation; expanded on reasonable documentation to apply for reparations.
 - iii. HB 313 – [Act 207](#) on rights for victims
 - iv. HB 1061 – [Act 513](#) requires that the victim be provided with information about emergency contraception.
 - v. SB 64 – [Act 173](#) updates crimes of violence definitions, including expanding the definition of person with a disability.
 - vi. SB 147 – [Act 540](#) on forensic medical examination documentation
- g. Commendation Chief Tommy Clark
- i. Chief Clark recognized Michelle Johnson for leadership and advocacy on anti-human trafficking legislation during the 2022 Regular Session and presented her with a certificate of commendation.
 - ii. Dr. Hunter added that Johnson is a survivor who has tirelessly advocated for survivors across the state. Johnson gave her own time to advocate for these bills

VII. Training Updates

Chief Tommy Clark

- a. US South Central Human Trafficking Summit Casey Morace
 - i. Chief Clark welcomed Morace to provide an update on the conference in Shreveport.
 - ii. Morace is speaking on behalf of Laurie McGhee, who was instrumental in planning the conference. They had over 300 people register for the conference. The Keynote speakers were US Attorney Ron Gathe, who emphasized the importance of seeing victims, and Cyntoia Long-Brown.



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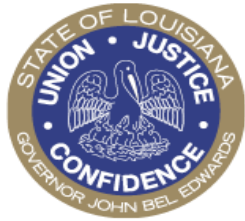
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- Morace also thanked a survivor that is in the room. The survivor trained for the first time at the conference and shared her experience.
- b. Upcoming Trainings: Mary Kate Andrepont
 - i. Andrepont noted two upcoming training opportunities through the OHTP: the LCYTC Train the Trainer on September 21, 2022, and the Statewide Task Force Convening on October 25-26, 2022 in Lake Charles. She encouraged members to look for an email about registering for the Convening.
- c. Chief Clark opened the floor for members to share about other statewide trainings.
 - i. Jennifer Hannon provided an update from OBH to offer training to behavioral health system. For past year and a half, Jennifer's team has provided trainings to partners. They hosted a listening tour for juvenile justices about how behavioral health system work, how to access it, types of intervention that exist, etc.
 - a. She noted that while there is no evidence based intervention that is human trafficking specific, there are trauma interventions that are evidence-based. OBH has developed the Center for Evidence to Practice, and they provide free trainings to providers. Because there is not an evidence based for human trafficking, OBH worked with Dr. Sam Sahl to develop a training to teach trauma-clinician how to better serve human trafficking survivors. They took known evidence-based interventions and wrapped in human traffickers. The Office also offers continuing money to support these efforts. Evidence to Practice has a website where you can identify trained clinicians.
 - b. Morace notes she has seen the successful effects of MDMR on trafficking survivors.
- Judge Richey asked if they still offer training about how OBH works. Hannon said yes and for Judge Richey to email her.

VIII. Updates from Subcommittee

Chief Tommy Clark

- a. Chief Clark welcomed subcommittee chairs to provide updates
- b. Labor trafficking
 - i. Andrepont provided the update. The labor trafficking subcommittee chair, Lugine Gray, is no longer able to chair the committee. They will be looking for another chair. Andrepont provided information on the progress of the disaster awareness plan that a working group has put together.
- c. Sex trafficking of adults Michelle Johnson
 - i. Johnson provided an update on some of the recommendations. They are working on a recommendation for mandatory taskforces or investigative units; they are looking into breaking them up into regions. They are also exploring a recommendation for housing confirmed victims and high risk victims. She notes that we have limited emergency housing in the state for adult victims. Finally, they are exploring mandatory training for Department of Corrections, and expanding it to parish jails.
- d. Sex trafficking of minors Courtney Lewis



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- i. Lewis provided update on the minors subcommittee. The subcommittee is taking a hard look at the prevention efforts for minors, including mandatory training for hospitals and schools. They also want to ensure existing legislation is being implemented, such as mandatory posting of human trafficking materials in hotels and rest stops. She did not realize that gas stations and hotels are supposed to have flyers posted.
 - Morace agreed that Buyer Beware law is also not being implemented.
 - Taylor said that the AG's Office has tried to get into the DARE program, but they have run into some issues with getting training into them. At schools, you have to be very careful what is trained on; some will let you train and others will not. The AG's Office cannot do presentation in the schools in Orleans or East Baton Rouge parishes. Taylor also noted that the AG's Office has awareness posters that they have disseminated to all truck stops.
 - Charles Kroger, who oversees child trafficking with the FBI in Baton Rouge, said he gets weekly requests for training in schools, majority of which are private schools. Usually, they ask for internet safety presentations. The FBI travels across the state to deliver these trainings, and they provide trainings to parents and kids.
 - Lewis added that she wants to ensure people are seeing the flyers and they are being posted.
 - a. Johnson responded that ATC enforces the awareness flyer postings.
 - b. Cole added that she helped create the flyers, and she has seen them posted in bathrooms.
 - c. Taylor agreed and that she recently saw one.
- ii. Lewis asked about process of getting their proposal introduced as a bill next session.
 - Johnson recommended making sure recommendations are well researched and thorough and reaching out to legislators.

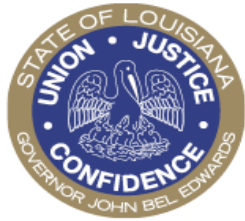
IX. Information on 2022 Subcommittee Recommendations

Mary Kate Andrepont

- a. Andrepont provided information on subcommittee recommendation submission for the 2022 annual report and the process for the Commission to review and approve the recommendations.
 - i. Deadline for Subcommittee chairs to submit recommendations is October 7, 2022. This is not the same as the subcommittee's final full report, which is due in December.
 - Submit up to three legislative recommendations and any other non-legislative in nature proposals according to the framework of prevention, identification, intervention, and prosecution.
 - ii. Presentation of legislative recommendations by subcommittees and vote by the Commission on October 20, 2022.

X. Topics for Next Meeting

Chief Tommy Clark



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- a. Chief Clark noted next meeting's tentative topics.
 - i. Vote for Subcommittee Recommendations
 - ii. Final Report discussion, deadline February 1, 2023

XI. Public Comment Chief Tommy Clark

- a. Chief Clark opened the floor to public comment.
- b. A concerned citizen brought attention to a case, and is being connected to law enforcement for reporting.
- c. Katie Hunter-Lowry with the Louisiana Survivors for Reform noted that her group is working on bringing a bill to address victims who acted in self-defense, and they are connecting with the Sex Trafficking of Adults subcommittee to bring it to the Commission.

XII. Other Business Chief Tommy Clark

- a. Chief Clark opened the floor to other business. No other business noted.

XIII. Adjournment Chief Tommy Clark

- a. Monica Taylor motioned for adjournment. Bob Wertz seconded. Adjourned at 3:40pm.