

*The Office of*  
**HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
PREVENTION**

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PROGRAMS AND PLANNING

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## Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission & Advisory Board

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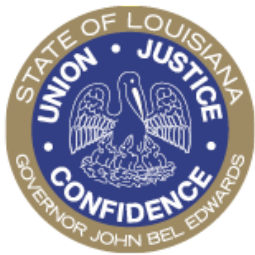
### Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2022

1:30pm

Zoom

- I. Call the Meeting to Order Chief Tommy Clark Jr.
- a. Chief Tommy Clark Jr. called the meeting to order.
- II. Roll Call Ashley Bourgeois
- a. The following members of the Commission were present:
- i. Chair- Chief Tommy Clark
  - ii. Co- Chair- DA Kristine Russell
  - iii. Bill Sommers by proxy, Beth Morgan
  - iv. Bob Wertz
  - v. Casey Morace
  - vi. Lieutenant Justin Berry
  - vii. Sec. Marketa Garner Walters
  - viii. Monica Taylor
  - ix. Natalie LaBorde
  - x. Richard Pittman
  - xi. Senator Beth Mizell
  - xii. Amanda Perry
- b. 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 by proxy, Alaina Hebert
  - vi. L. Clayton Kleinpeter, MD
  - vii. Kate Shipley
  - viii. D.A. Kristine Russell
  - ix. Laurie McGehee
  - x. Linsey Barnard
  - xi. Reshelle Marino, Ph.D.



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III. Opening Remarks

Chief Clark

a. Dr. Dana Hunter

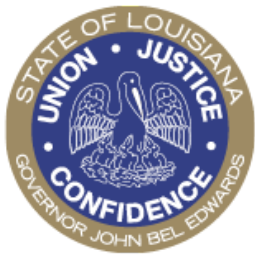
- i. Dr. Hunter welcomed members to the meeting. January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month, and Governor Edwards signed a proclamation to declare this month Human Trafficking Prevention month.
    - Last Tuesday, the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention hosted Cyntoia Brown- Long and her husband. Dr. Hunter thanked everyone who was able to come out. Cyntoia shared a powerful story. There were other survivors that were present who spoke and shared quotes. We were reminded of the importance of survivors in this fight to end human trafficking.
    - In addition, Child Advocacy Centers and agencies across the state are hosting special events for Human Trafficking Prevention Month throughout this month.
  - ii. Dr. Hunter announced that First Lady Donna Edwards will have a press conference next Tuesday to launch a new campaign and the state's first resource website. She believes that this website will be a game changer for the state, as people access it to learn more about human trafficking, to find resources, and learn about reporting.
  - iii. Lastly, Dr. Hunter is pleased to announce that the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention was rewarded a second round of funding for the Louisiana Child and Youth Trafficking Collaboration; this iteration of the grant is called the Accessibility Initiative. The program spent the last few years developing multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) statewide, and the Office is taking steps to establish a care coordination system across the state. Another key component of the project includes a screening tool for labor trafficking.
    - Through the grant, they are also pleased to give some funding to DCFS, OJJ, FINS, and Louisiana State Police for specific liaison positions at their agency that will work with the Governor's Office on these initiatives. These agencies are also contributing funding towards the positions and matching the dollars. They are thankful to OVC for this funding to move the state forward.
  - iv. Dr. Hunter thanked members again for their work.
- b. Chief Clark thanked Dr. Hunter and he noted that OVC only had a limited number of grant recipients.
- i. Dr. Hunter added that Louisiana was the only state to receive the funding in 2018, and in 2021, Louisiana was one of two states to be awarded funding, along with Colorado.

IV. **Old Business:** December 2021 Minutes

HTPC

a. Discussion

- i. Secretary Walters noted on page three that Dr. Roe Sepowitz's program acronym was misspelled and needed to be corrected to STIR.



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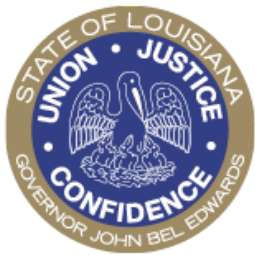
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- b. Secretary Walters moved to approve the minutes with the correction. Bob Wertz seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

V. **New Business:** 2021 Annual Report

HTPC

- a. Chief Clark opened the floor to discussion of the annual report.
  - i. Dr. Hunter noted that if members find any technical, grammatical, or format edits, to please email Mary Kate Andrepont at [marykate.andrepont@la.gov](mailto:marykate.andrepont@la.gov) as they want to keep the discussion today to any substantive changes that need to be made. The Office will be making some layout edits to the subcommittee reports to make it uniform and is aware of other small technical edits that need to be made.
- b. Discussion
  - i. Secretary Walters asked if it was the proper place to introduce a legislative recommendation that she would like to see included in the report that is similar to another recommendation regarding adding positions to the Advisory Board and the Commission.
    - Secretary Walters makes a motion for a legislative recommendation to add a permanent Advisory Board member for representatives from DCFS and OJJ as well as to add an advisory board designee from Louisiana Board of Regents, and to add a Commission member from the Louisiana Board of Regents.
      - a. Secretary Walters notes the importance of adding a permanent member from DCFS and OJJ going forward. While we have a really great Governor and First Lady that are all-in on this work, looking forward to the next administration, where there will be a new slate of Commission members that hold the Secretary positions, those members may not have the same level of input from their staff. Without having those agencies also having members on the Advisory Board, the Commission might not benefit from the great work and involvement that they are getting now. To be on the safe side, she recommends that the Commission codify it by adding members from DCFS and OJJ.
      - b. Also, the Louisiana Board of Regents is really interested in joining this effort, and she proposes adding a Commissioner from the Louisiana Board of Regents.
    - Chief Clark added that he is in agreement that we should have representation from DCFS and OJJ on the Advisory Board, so we're not going back and reinventing the wheel in a couple years.
    - Casey Morace noted her appreciation for all of the work that Christy Tate has done in the subcommittees. She also asked Dr. Hunter what the appropriate procedure was for adding new Advisory Board and Commission members.

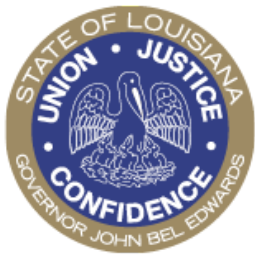


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- a. Dr. Hunter responded that the Commission will need to make a legislative recommendation to add it to the statute. The first step is that the Commission votes on the motion, then we can add it to the Annual Report.
  - Richard Pittman seconded Secretary Walters' proposal.
  - Monica Taylor noted the importance of how Secretary Walters framed her proposal, since we had previously had this discussion about adding members. The Commission is representing their agencies as governmental entities, whereas the Advisory Board represents the interests of victim advocacy groups, survivors, and direct service providers. She felt it was important to note that distinction.
  - Chief Clark asked if there was any more discussion on this topic.
    - a. Erika Marlowe Brantley asked how one goes about becoming a member of the advisory board, as she is interested.
    - b. Chief Clark recommended that she send a letter of intent to the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention with background information and expressing her interest.
  - Chief Clark opened a roll call vote for the recommendation put forward by Secretary Walters. Motion carried with 11 yays.
  - ii. Chief Clark asked if there was any further discussion on the Annual Report.
  - iii. Morace thanked the chairs of the subcommittee for working on the report.
  - iv. Pittman would like his opposition noted in the subcommittee report.
    - Morace noted that she believed the subcommittee reports mentioned potential pushback or opposition. She asked Andrepont if that was the appropriate place to add those concerns.
    - Andrepont responded that the subcommittee report would be the most appropriate place to note Pittman's concerns.
    - Secretary Walters added that Pittman's concerns—which were represented through his proxy, Natalie Awad, last meeting-- were noted in great detail in the meeting minutes. She thought it was well documented, and those minutes are public record, though she also does not have any issue with working it into the subcommittee report.
    - Pittman would like his counter-view represented in the report as it was the only recommendation that was not unanimous.
    - Chief Clark responded that it should not be a problem to note it in the report, and thanked Pittman.
  - v. Amanda Perry made a motion to accept the report with the corrections noted. D.A. Russell seconded.
- c. Chief Clark moved forward with a roll call vote to approve the Annual Report with corrections noted. Motion carried with 11 yays.



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- VI. Vote on 2022 Commission Chair and Co-Chair HTPC & HTPCAB
- a. Chief Clark opened the floor for Commission Chair nominations for 2022.
    - i. Morace commended Chief Clark for his leadership and nominated Chief Clark to remain Commission chair. D.A. Russell seconded the nomination.
    - ii. Chief accepted the nomination and asked if there were any other nominations for the chair. No other nominations noted.
    - iii. Taylor made a motion to close nomination and approve Chief Clark as Commission Chair. Amanda Perry seconded.
  - b. Chief Clark opened the floor for Commission Co- Chair nominations.
    - i. Chief Clark made a motion to retain D.A. Russell as his co-chair. Taylor seconded. No other nominations noted. D.A. Russell accepted the nomination.
    - ii. Nominations for co-chair closed.
- VII. Vote on 2022 Advisory Board Chair and Co-Chair HTPC & HTPAB
- a. Chief Clark opened the floor for Advisory Board Chair nominations.
    - i. Johnson nominated Casey Morace to remain the chair. She noted that Morace, along with Chief Clark, did a great job leading the Commission and Advisory Board. Morace accepted the position. No other nominations noted.
  - b. Advisory Board Co-Chair Nominations
    - i. Morace nominated Michelle Johnson, in turn, to remain as co-chair. Johnson accepted the nomination.
    - ii. Chief Clark asked if there were any other nominations. No other nominations.
  - c. Chief Clark thanked the members for trusting in him to lead the Commission and continue in this work. He appreciates the hard work and commitment from all members, even in the work that they do outside the Commission.
- VIII. Subcommittee Layout Discussion HTPC & HTPAB
- a. Chief Clark opened the floor to discuss subcommittees for 2022.
    - i. Andrepont noted that last year, the Commission voted to create three subcommittees: on labor trafficking and immigration; sex trafficking of adult victims; and sex trafficking of minor victims. She notes that the discussion is to provide feedback on if last year's subcommittee types were effective or if they needed to be added or changed.
    - ii. Morace added that in past years the Commission focused on labor and sex trafficking within each subcommittee, but last year they voted to separate the subcommittees to focus more on each type of trafficking. Morace wanted to know if members would like to continue on that path or go back to how they used to do it. She also noted the importance of subcommittees and really encouraged members, going forward, to participate in subcommittees.



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- iii. Taylor added that she liked that there was a separate labor trafficking subcommittee, as sometimes labor trafficking gets lost in conversations when the focus is on sex trafficking.
- iv. Maria Isabella Pontoriero (MIP) asked if it would be too broad to have a general minors subcommittee to encompass both types of trafficking.
- v. Leanne McCallum recommends that we separate labor trafficking and immigration into its own committees.
  - MIP also noted that if the Commission adopted McCallum's proposal, then the labor trafficking could encompass adult and minor victims of labor trafficking. She mentioned that child labor should be noted somewhere.
  - Johnson thought the same thing that we should make sure to cover both adult and minor needs separately within that subcommittee.
  - McCallum adds that immigration needs to be its own separate issue so that advocates from labor and sex trafficking can come together, while labor trafficking can be its own subcommittee and integrate better the experiences of child and adult survivors of labor trafficking.
- vi. In this proposal, there would be four subcommittees: labor trafficking, immigration, sex trafficking of minor victims, and sex trafficking of adult victims.
  - Pittman clarified that the only addition, then, would be the immigration subcommittee and the other subcommittees would stay as is.
  - McCallum concurred and responded that immigration is such a broad topic that last year the subcommittee on labor trafficking and immigration had a hard time balancing both topics. This proposal would give the subcommittee on labor trafficking the space to focus on labor trafficking issues, including child labor, while also giving immigration issues a space and bringing together advocates from sex and labor trafficking.
  - Pittman asked if McCallum believes there are enough people available to fill an immigration subcommittee.
  - McCallum noted her experience working within survivor services focused on immigrants, and their experience has been that there has not been a space for them within the Commission. Oftentimes, their interests are not being heard. She thinks by creating a space focused on it would encourage participation from those stakeholders.
  - Pittman asked if a subcommittee can include members that are not on the Commission or Advisory Board.
  - Morace responded yes, and McCallum noted that she is not on the Commission or Advisory Board but is on the labor trafficking subcommittee.
  - Pittman asked who can reach out to those communities to find out who has expertise and interest in being involved.



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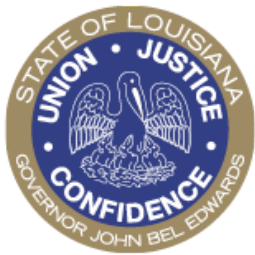
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- McCallum responded that some of those communities have been engaged and also disengaged as a result of their experiences. She thinks that a re-invitation is a part of it. She also adds that within her subcommittee last year there were members whose expertise was more on the immigration side, such as immigrant legal services.
  - vii. Johnson adds that, from a survivor perspective, foreign national victims have distinct needs and special services, such as legal services. From her lens, creating the immigration subcommittee would fill a gap.
  - viii. Secretary Walters agreed that the proposal makes sense. She thanked McCallum for her hard work, as someone who is not a member of the Advisory Board but works really hard and leads a subcommittee. As we add individuals to the Advisory Board, we need to be aware that there are other people who attend the meetings and are doing significant work but do not have a seat on the Advisory Board, and we want their voices at the table and to feel encouraged to join in. She notes that if adding a subcommittee on immigration opens a door to a community we have not been very welcoming to, it is past time we should do that. She says that she learns something new every meeting.
  - ix. Morace notes that since there has not been any opposition, we should have a vote on the topic.
    - Chief Clark was experiencing internet connection trouble, and D.A. Russell took over leading the meeting
  - x. Pittman asked if the motion should include a mechanism to appoint people to the new subcommittee, such as giving the Commission Chair and the Advisory Board chair the authority to decide who is in it and as more people come forward, assign people to it.
    - Taylor responded that the subcommittee appointments are somewhat open and by invitation from the Commission, as there is not a set structure.
- b. Vote
- i. Pittman made a motion to create new subcommittee on immigration in addition to the subcommittees on sex trafficking of adult victims, sex trafficking of minor victims, and labor trafficking. Taylor seconded the motion.
  - ii. No opposition. Motion carried.

## IX. 2022 Framework Discussion

HTPC & HTPAB

- a. Andrepont noted that last year the Commission voted for their guiding framework covering prevention, identification, intervention, and prosecution. These were the four areas that subcommittees explored and centered their recommendations around. The reasoning being to focus more heavily on identification and intervention. This discussion would like to address if the Commission wants to continue on in this framework, to go back to the previous 4 Ps framework of prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships, or look into a new framework.



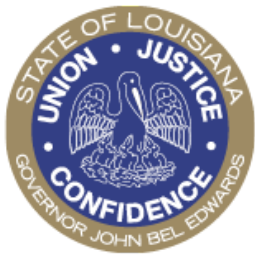
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- b. Secretary Walters noted that from her perspective, the current framework is very thorough and comprehensive, and she does not see a need to change the framework moving forward. However, she is open to hearing other ideas about it.
- Chief Clark agrees that this framework covers everything.
  - ii. Kate Shipley added that, for the subcommittee on sex trafficking of minors, it was a simple framework to follow, and it gives each of the subcommittees freedom to choose what they want their priorities to be.
  - iii. McCallum noted that some subcommittee members were confused about what the subcommittee reports would contribute to. She said that she thinks it would be helpful to understand why the subcommittees are writing the reports and what will come from them. She believes that the framework is really helpful, but she wants to ensure that the report-writing process adds value to the anti-trafficking movement so that people want to participate in the subcommittees.
    - Dr. Hunter asked where McCallum thinks we should add language to explain, such as on the Resource Center website or through a one-pager. Would she like it to be more formalized or informally?
    - McCallum responded that informally would be helpful. She added that some subcommittee felt confused about what was the purpose of the report, and it would be helpful to have clear guidance on what to include in the report, such as feedback that they should follow up on past recommendations, create recommendations, feedback for how to spend their time.
    - Dr. Hunter added that the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention can put together a document that describes the purpose and expectations of the subcommittees, along with what is expected for the report.
    - Secretary Walters agreed that having that would be a better way to codify it and letting people know that there is an end game—to get to better law and policy in our state.
    - Dr. Hunter said that the Office will work on it and have a draft ready for the next meeting.
- c. Vote
- i. Secretary Walters made a motion to retain last year's framework of prevention, identification, intervention, and prosecution in guiding the work of the Commission, Advisory Board, and subcommittees for 2022. Taylor seconded.
  - ii. No opposition noted. All in favor. Motion carried.
- X. Public Comment
- a. Chief Clark opened the floor for any public comment.
  - b. No public comment noted.
- XI. Other Business





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- a. Taylor thanked the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention for their work on Tuesday's event at the Governor's Mansion. She applauded the Office for a fantastic event.
- b. Chief Clark agreed and thanked all of the Commission members who were able to attend the event, and he thanked the survivors for their involvement.
- c. Dr. Hunter thanked everyone for their support. She noted that Governor and First Lady Edwards are also thankful for all the hard work of this body. Together, we are making progress and we will keep moving forward. She is confident that with this report and the recommendations that we will see some traction on them.

XII. Adjournment

- a. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Secretary Walters seconded the motion.
- b. Time out is 2:43pm.