



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

**Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission & Advisory Board**

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August 19, 2021  
1pm  
Zoom Meeting

**Minutes**

- I. Call the Meeting to Order *Chief Tommy Clark*
- A. Chief Tommy Clark called the meeting to order.
  - B. Richard took a minute to introduce Lakita Leonard, a new appointee to the Board.
- II. Roll Call *Mary Kate Andrepont*
- A. Mary Kate Andrepont 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 – LA District Attorney's Association; co-chair
    - iii. Casey Morace – Chair, Advisory Board
    - iv. Secretary Marketa Walters; DCFS
    - v. Senator Beth Mizell—Louisiana Senate
    - vi. Gerald Millet— Louisiana Dept. of Education
    - vii. Richard Pittman—Louisiana Public Defender Board
    - viii. Monica Taylor— Louisiana Attorney General's Office
    - ix. Sundee Winder—Dept of Health; by proxy, Amanda Perry
  - C. The following members of the Advisory Board were present:
    - i. Casey Morace— LACFA; chair
    - ii. Michelle Johnson— Empower 225; co-chair
    - iii. Juanita Carruth— expert in advocacy for children
    - iv. Alliece Cole – Empower 225
    - v. Rafael de Castro—Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA)
    - vi. Rafael Salcedo—Licensed Psychologist



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- vii. Angela Roberts— Louisiana Families in Need of Services Association
- viii. Kate Shipley – Louisiana Alliance of Children’s Advocacy Centers
- ix. Angela Wiggins Harris—LA chapter, Nat’l Association of Social Workers
- x. Sheri Lochridge—Covenant House
- xi. Lakita Leonard— Public Defender

III. Opening Remarks

*Chief Tommy Clark*

A. Chief Clark introduced First Lady Donna Edwards to provide opening remarks.

B. First Lady Donna Edwards

- i. First Lady Edwards thanked everyone and hopes everyone and their families are staying safe in the devastating Covid-19 fourth wave that is being driven by the delta variant. She is praying for our children and teachers as they return to school. She and Governor Edwards encourage everyone that is eligible to get the vaccination. They are 1400 vaccination locations in the state; she’s excited that people are able to call 211 to find their nearest vaccination sites.
- ii. Above all, she encourages everyone to pray. She and Governor Edwards make it a priority to pray every day for the citizens of our state and also for the work members do. She thanks members for their hard work in addressing human trafficking, though it’s not easy crime to pinpoint or even to prosecute. Together, she believes we can make a difference in the lives of our survivors. She is spreading the mission to bring awareness of human trafficking and engaging in other First Spouses in this work. She wants to be a good steward of her platform to elevate the conversation of human trafficking and bring awareness to it.
- iii. On Thursday October 14<sup>th</sup>, First Lady Edwards will host her 4<sup>th</sup> Anti-Human Trafficking Global Summit. Her office is partnering again with the state of Texas and will have speakers from various states sharing information on internet safety strategies. As children are able to access the internet more and more, she believes this information is critical and timely, especially in this pandemic. Registration will be made available to everyone on the call.
- iv. First Lady Edwards says Governor Edwards is just as passionate about this issue as she is. She is incredibly proud of work that he and Senator Ronnie Johns and Senator Regina Barrow have done on this issue to eradicate human trafficking. During this year’s regular session, Governor Edwards signed into law a bill creating the Office Human Trafficking Prevention. It is the state’s first entity solely committed to addressing and preventing human trafficking. Governor Edwards has appointed Dr. Dana Hunter to serve as the Executive Director of the new office. She thanked Dr. Hunter for all the work she has already done and the work she’ll continue to do in



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this office. She is incredibly proud of her work and dedication on this issue. Previously, she has served as the Executive Director of the Children's Cabinet, and she knows that Dr. Hunter will continue to do a great job in this role.

- v. The First Lady's Office and the new Office of Human Trafficking Prevention will continue to work hand and hand to raise awareness and to send strong message to those that are trafficking, that it will not be tolerated in Louisiana.
  - vi. First Lady Edwards asks all members to not hesitate to contact her office if they need anything. Delery Rice and her office are more than happy to help.
  - vii. First Lady added that they are planning a human trafficking awareness event in New Orleans in April around the NCAA tournament. She will get members more information. They are working across departments to pull everyone in and make it an opportunity to show the country that this is an important issue. She hopes that, by Louisiana being the first state to do this type of event, other states will be able to replicate it in the future.
  - viii. First Lady Edwards wants to thank everyone again for their hard work in this field.
- C. Chief Clark thanked First Lady for her continued support. He introduced Dr. Hunter to provide opening remarks.
- D. Dr. Dana Hunter
- i. Dr. Hunter thanked Chief and all the members. She thanked First Lady Edwards and Governor Edwards for supporting her and trusting her leadership in this new role. This office has only been open for one month, and she's already received gut wrenching phone calls from survivors. She wants to remind the Commission and Advisory Board that this works is so serious. Even as we're meeting, some young person is in harm's way. As she moves the office forward, she is keeping the victims and those in vulnerable population at the forefront.
  - ii. Dr. Hunter had a phone call with a survivor this week. She gave her permission to share her story. She is in a situation facing homelessness but not because she doesn't have employment or income. She is not able to get quality housing due to her criminal record that is tied to her trafficking. She says that this should remind us that we have work to do. Senator Johns and Senator Beth Mizell have done great work to put laws on the books to prosecute these criminals and punish the buyers. They have made great strides to address these issues, but our work is not done. She encourages members that in the work they are doing to continue to think about creative legislative and policy solutions, such as expungement. We have to also think about ways to support victims once they become a survivor. She is happy to end on a positive note that someone is working



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right now to get housing for this survivor; someone has donated a year's worth of rent. She wanted to share this story to remind everyone of the importance of this work.

- iii. Dr. Hunter added that they are currently hiring staff for the office. They are moving very swiftly, and Dr. Adren Wilson has been very supportive. The Office will work to achieve the following goals: They will improve data and reporting statewide. She is working with DCFS to build up what they've already put into place. The law that creates the Office also allows them to get data from law enforcement. They will create a more comprehensive data and reporting systems. Furthermore, they want to create a collaborative outreach to build a network for our survivors. They are working now with the LCYTC grant to build a care coordination system for survivors, regardless of where a victim is identified. They also want to engage with stakeholders to really bolster prevention efforts, as prevention is key. People need to know how to report trafficking. The initiative that First Lady is rolling out will seek to do that, to send a strong message that trafficking will not be tolerated, and to educate people on how to report trafficking, if they suspect it.
  - iv. She thanks everyone for their support. She will work closely at the hip with members.
- E. Michelle Johnson explained the importance and necessity of expungement for survivors. She asked members to support legislation granting expungement to survivors with criminal records as a result of their trafficking.
- i. Chief Clark thanked Johnson and said he is certain her words have not fallen on deaf ears.
- F. Chief Clark welcomed and acknowledged Senator Beth Mizell to the Commission as a new member.
- i. Senator Mizell thanked Chief. She is honored to sit on the Commission and her ears are wide open. She feels a burden for what Johnson just shared. She thanked Johnson for putting us in the lived reality of survivors. She has spoken with Dr Hunter and is committed to doing whatever it takes to address these barriers. She also wants to acknowledge Senator Ronnie Johns for what he's done to advocate against trafficking. She thanked members and everyone on the call.

- IV. **Old Business:** May 2021 Minutes *Chief Tommy Clark*
- A. Chief Clark requested review and approval of the May 20, 2021 minutes.
  - B. No corrections were noted.
- V. **Vote to Approve Minutes**
- A. Monica Taylor made a motion to approve minutes. Seconded by Secretary Walters. All approved. Motion Carried.



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VI. Training Recaps

*Chief Tommy Clark*

A. Chief Clark invited Dr. Hunter to give remarks on recent trainings. On our last meeting, we spoke about upcoming trainings with a number of our partners across the state. She is pleased to say that, in just two months, we were able to have four very important trainings.

B. LCYTC Train-the-Trainer

*Dr. Dana Hunter*

i. The Louisiana Child and Youth Trafficking Collaborative (LCYTC) rolled out the state's first Human Trafficking Train-the-Trainer series. She gave a special thanks to Kate Shipley and Leanne McCallum for their work. In attendance were representatives from DARE, Ochsner Health Systems, and Wildlife and Fisheries. They were trained to go out and train others. She is so thankful that the state now has an infrastructure for a train-the-trainer. She is thanked the trainers: Ms. Alice Cole, Lieutenant Gremillion, Jessica Miller, and others.

C. DARE Association Conference

i. As she mentioned, at the LCYTC training, they trained the DARE officer that will train all officers state wide. He was able to do a human trafficking training at the DARE Association conference. DARE officers have a unique opportunity to train children in schools.

ii. Jessica Miller from the Ginger Bread House CAC trained the officer on body safety and online safety to add to what they already have, as they talk about substance abuse and peer pressure. They wanted to include a plug for online safety, healthy relationships, and the indicators of human trafficking. They are very excited for the partnerships.

D. LIFT Training for Medical Providers

i. At the LIFT medical training, they were able to partner with key agencies. They've been able to have trainings in health profession in Shreveport with Dr. Molly Gordon. They had many professionals in attendance, including law enforcement and health professionals. They also had a recent virtual training with Our Lady of the Lake Health Systems; they have since asked for more trainings. She thanked Ms. Cole for making that connection.

E. LA Chief of Police Annual Conference

*Chief Tommy Clark*

*Clark*

i. Chief Clark said that he was elated with the feedback from the Human Trafficking trainings at the Louisiana Chief of Police Conference. They had 234 Chiefs in attendance. They were engaged in the sessions. Chief Clark had several Chiefs contact him trying to locate the MDTs. He believes that they got the message. Believe it or not, there were several Chiefs that didn't know that they were MDTs operating in their area. He



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thanked the trainers—Monica Taylor, Alliece Cole, Louisiana State Police— for coming and providing trainings.

- Monica Taylor thanked Chief Clark for having her. It is one of her favorite conferences to go to. She wanted to shout out Kate Shipley and her team that provided her with the information she was able to share.
- Chief Clark asked if Ms. Cole had any remarks to add.
- Ms. Cole said it was such an honor to be there with the audience. One Chief came to her afterwards and asked if she could come to their training academy. She says that it was such a win seeing their engagement and interest afterward and that so many of them heard and listened. She thanked Chief Clark for his work in moving our state forward.
- ii. Secretary Marketa Walters thanked Chief for his leadership.
- iii. Dr Hunter added that there was also a Chief who served dual roles as a pastor as well. She had a conversation with him about the possibility of starting a faith network of pastors to educate other faith leaders on human trafficking. She is excited about that partnership.
- iv. Chief Clark added that to please reach out to him if any members are having issues getting into contact with their local Chief of Police. He will be happy to put them in touch. He says that we are here for the victims, and as long as we don't forget that, we'll do fine.

#### VII. 2021 Legislative Updates

*Mary Kate Andrepont*

- A. Chief Clark introduced Mary Kate Andrepont to provide information on bills relating to human trafficking that were signed and passed this past legislative session.
- B. Andrepont introduced four new bills.
  - i. SB 170 - Act 352 creates the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention
  - ii. HB 227 – Act 18 authorizes the use of administrative subpoenas to obtain internet/electronic records in investigations of human trafficking offenses
  - iii. HB 492 – Act 322 eliminates the prescriptive period to commence a civil action against a person for sexual or physical abuse of minor and against a person convicted of a crime against a child, including human trafficking.
  - iv. HB 531 – Act 324 requires the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy to provide training on human trafficking to its board members, staff, and contract inspectors.
- C. Andrepont asked if anyone has any questions, she'll be happy to answer them. She looks forward to the legislative proposals that are will come out of the subcommittees for next session.



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- D. Monica Taylor added that the Board of Massage Therapy contacted her to do their training. She was scheduled last Friday to do the training, but they had to cancel because they needed a quorum for the training. They will get back in touch with her to do the training.
- i. Senator Mizell asked if Taylor could update them on when this training would take place. She says it is incredibly important that they are trained. She wants to make sure it does not get prolonged.
  - ii. Taylor said she will certainly make sure it does not fall through the cracks. She is developing a training specifically for them and relevant to the types of things they would see.

**VIII. New Business: Updates from Subcommittee**

*Chief Tommy Clark*

**A. Labor trafficking**

*Leanne McCallum*

- i. Leanne McCallum, chair of the labor trafficking committee, provided the update.
- ii. The subcommittee been working to review 2018 report and key findings. They think it is important that leaders within the anti-trafficking movement expand their knowledge of labor trafficking, as many leaders in this movement have more of an expertise on sex trafficking. They are building a potential training to offer to Commission members. They have also talked about screening for labor trafficking and identification. She is currently working alongside DCFS to put out a child labor trafficking identification tool, very similar to the 2016 sex trafficking screening tool. They are hoping to have that ready for circulation and distribution by the end of the year. Lastly, the subcommittee has talked a lot about language access for non-English speakers.
- iii. The subcommittee is interested in learning more about what the expectation is for the final report. She looks forward to hearing what they should be aiming to create as a result of their meetings.
- iv. Casey Morace added that they are going to address the expectations down the line on the agenda.

**B. Sex trafficking of adults**

*Tiffani Robinson*

- i. Tiffani Robinson, chair of the sex trafficking of adult subcommittee, provided the update.
- ii. In their last meeting, they nailed down 9 main issues: language access, service access in rural communities, law enforcement trainings, funding issues, mapping of resources, taskforces, trafficking of people with disabilities, expungement, and identification databases. Since then, there have been three main works in progress, including legislation for expungement, civil suits, and trafficking of people with disabilities. They



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have invited a couple partners to be at the next meeting, so the subcommittee can put forward those legislative proposals.

- 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.
  - ii. The subcommittee has been busy this year. In looking at past reports, they wanted to make sure they weren't duplicating and repeating work. They decided to narrow the largest needs to five gaps and poll members for their top focus this year. The five categories included a feasibility study, mandatory trainings, mandatory screening tools, how to case manage youth who are not system involved, and provision of educational resources for youth who have been trafficked. Following the poll, they narrowed it down to 1) recommendations for how a feasibility study can be conducted on specialized placements and 2) mandatory trainings.
  - iii. They have broken up into working groups to start fleshing out recommendations. She echoed Leanne and asked for more information on the structure for the report to make sure they are aligned with expectations
  - iv. Senator Mizell asked for clarification regarding specialized placements. She said that she can reach out after but she would like to know what the specialized placements are and what the differences are. She'd also like to know who they hope to put mandatory trainings in place for that they are not already.
  - v. Pontoriero will be happy to speak with Senator Mizell and provide her some information as well as connect her with Christy Tate.
- D. Dr. Hunter acknowledged new members and new individuals who have joined today and asked them to email Mary Kate Andrepont if they would like to be in engaged in a subcommittee. She wanted to acknowledge Chandler Vidrine from the Governor's Office, who brings experience working with the Board of Regents and working with Title IX. Lakita Leonard is a new member as well as Juanita Carruth. She also wants to acknowledge Kim Lacour on the call of the Governor's Office of Constituent Services and Leslie Chambers. If they would like to be engaged in subcommittee, please reach out to Mary Kate Andrepont or Casey Morace.
- E. D.A. Kristine Russell commented that Louisiana District Attorney's Association has put out their Human Trafficking Handbook for Prosecution. If anyone would like to take a look at it, she'd be happy to share. They can email her.

IX. Proposal for Guest Speakers and Resources

*Dr. Dana Hunter*

- A. Dr. Hunter said that she has been speaking with individuals across the country. She thought it would be important to consider having guest speakers at meetings. She wanted to put forward a proposal to have guest speakers come to these



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meetings and set aside about 15 minutes to have them share on best practices or other major activities happening across the country.

- X. Vote on proposal *Chief Tommy Clark*
- A. Morace launched a poll to vote for the proposal of having guest speakers.
  - B. Motion passed and carried.
  - C. Dr. Hunter said she will work with the executive team to determine the appropriate speakers for each meeting.
- XI. Annual Report *Chief Tommy Clark*
- A. Chief Clark provided information regarding the Annual Report that is due to the Legislature by February 1.
    - i. Each subcommittee will submit their report by Friday, December 10, 2021.
    - ii. Full draft to be sent out in January
    - iii. Commission to vote on the report at January 20, 2022 meeting.
  - B. Clark opened the floor for discussion for any farther questions.
    - i. Andrepont noted that at the first meeting this year, the Commission decided on a framework to guide recommendations. It included the areas of prevention, identification, intervention, and prosecution.
    - ii. Morace said that they can send out in writing that framework and the structure in time for the subcommittee to meet the deadlines.
    - iii. Leanne McCallum asked for some guidance on what should be included in the report.
      - Morace said that they can include recommendations, assessment of gaps, future goals, etc., as they determine. She will make sure they send out a document outlining the information. She mentioned that it is important that our report addresses topics that are actionable and feasible to achieve this year and next year and that those take top priority.
      - Andrepont read statute RS 46:2165 which charges the Commission to “issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the president of the Senate.”
    - iv. Pontoriero asked if the subcommittees needed to address all four aspects of the framework in their subcommittee report.
      - Chief noted that it was up to subcommittees to determine their recommendations, as they are experts. The executive team will look over the information provided by the subcommittees and determine what recommendations are feasible. He doesn't want the subcommittee is limiting their recommendations.



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- XII. Topics for Next Meeting *Chief Tommy Clark*  
A. Chief Clark noted that the topics of next meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup> will include more information on the Annual report and possibly the presentation of guest speakers. He asked that members please email in their recommendations for speakers.
- XIII. Public Comment *Chief Tommy Clark*  
A. Chief Clark opens the floor for public comment. No public comment.
- XIV. Other Business *Chief Tommy Clark*  
A. Chief Clark opens the floor for other business to be discussed.  
B. Chief ended with an encouragement to get vaccinated and keep social distancing, so we can end this pandemic.
- XV. Adjournment *Chief Tommy Clark*  
A. Motion to adjourn by Monica Taylor and seconded by Richard Pittman. Meeting adjourned.  
B. Adjournment time: 2:11pm.