

COMMISSION on HUMAN TRAFFICKING

July 15, 2020

MINUTES

Present: Dawne Lomangino-DiMauro, Angelo Onofri, Annmarie Taggart, Elizabeth Ruebman, Marisol Rodriguez, Rush L. Russell, Timothy Gallagher, Brian Ross, Gina Cavallo, Aldina Hovde, Ingrid Johnson

Absent: William Monaghan

Meeting called to Order around 11:05 a.m.

- I. Announcement of Open Public Meetings Act which stated: “the meeting was noticed on July 7, 2020 by sending written notice to the Star Ledger, Bergen Record, Gannett, Town Square Media, Burlington County Times, Philly.com. Additionally the written notice was filed with the Secretary of State.
- II. A review of the By-Laws and a motion to change meeting requirement from quarterly to monthly was approved. Edits will be made and the final draft will be presented next meeting, August 5, 2020 to be voted in.
- III. Review of, Role in Reviewing Legislation, and Pending Legislation
 - a. After discussion a decision was made that there should be a ***process and standard*** to follow if the commission were to make comments on pending human trafficking legislation. The following steps were decided -
 - i. A Legislative Committee was formed to include: A. Onofri, A. Taggart, and G. Cavallo. This committee will review and prepare summaries on all HT Bills being considered.
 - ii. These summaries will be sent to all commissioners prior to next meeting for their review.
 - iii. Comments will be discussed during the meeting and decision will be made as to which if any should be submitted.
- IV. Ethics Training- Samantha Hilton from Department of Law & Public Safety, Ethics, was guest speaker. Two questions were presented – are all

commissioners required to do a FDS, and what are the rules concerning speaking at events. Samantha will send that information for distribution.

- V. Draft Consolidated Annual Report 2016-2019
 - a. Prior to this meeting, all members were emailed the report for review and any additional comments are due July 22, 2020. The final edits were to be made and we hope to present the final draft for a vote at next meeting.

- VI. Court Process for HT Fines – Prosecutor Onofri explained that the HT fines are the last to be collected, and that typically the defendant does not have any money to collect. To demonstrate this it was reported that the state had 13 HT cases that assessed fines amounting to \$385, 000. Yet no monies were collected because defendants had none.
 - a. Discussion on what can be done if anything to rework the system, or find other ways to support the Victim Assistance Fund. There was a motion to recommend that the mechanism of the VAF isn't adequate, and that 1 – find out how/why original mechanism was set up this way; and 2 – to gather information on how to make the VAF viable and can we make recommendations on that.
 - b. One suggestion on collecting monies was noting that HT victims can file civil charges against trafficker for wages lost. But there were many questions on how to determine restitution. Someone from legal services will be invited to speak at an upcoming meeting to explain this process.

- IV. How to Access HT Commission \$100,000 Funding in 2020 – all submitted spending proposals were reviewed and the decision was made to write for 2 RFP's both for \$44,000
 - a. Awareness/Prevention Campaign – also creating a committee –E. Ruebman and I. Johnson will prepare and present at next meeting
 - b. Unified Statistical Data – committee –A.Hovde and D. Lomangino-DiMauro will prepare and present at next meeting.

- V. Prostitution Offender Program – was tabled for next meeting due to lack of time.

- VI. Next Meeting – August 5, 2020

Motion to adjourn seconded, voted on, and passed.