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NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:34 p.m. by Chairperson Commissioner Dawne Lomangino-DiMauro.

II. SUNSHINE LAW ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcement of the Open Public Meeting Act, commonly referred to as “The “Sunshine Law,” by Chairperson Lomangino-DiMauro, which stated, “The meeting was noticed on January 12, 2021, by sending written notice to The Star-Ledger, The Bergen Record, Gannett, Town Square Media, Burlington County Times, Philly.Com. Additionally, the written notice was filed with the NJ Secretary of State.”

III. ATTENDANCE

PRESENT COMMISSIONERS: Chairperson Dawne Lomangino-DiMauro, Annmarie Taggart, Elizabeth Ruebman, Gina Cavallo, Bonny Fraser, Aldina Hovde, Ingrid Johnson, Marisol Rodriguez, Rush L. Russell.

ABSENT COMMISSIONERS: Timothy J. Gallagher, William P. Monaghan, Angelo Onofri.

QUORUM WAS PRESENT.



OTHERS PRESENT: Kathy Friess, Roman Guzik, Peter Qualliotine, Jessica Kitson, Vicki Vreeland.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 16, 2020 by Commissioner Russell. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hovde. Motion passed.

V. PRESENTATIONS

1. Peter Qualliotine, Founder
Modeling Equality-Ending Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Peter Qualliotine discussed his experience and research in the area of Commercial Sexual Exploitation. "Modeling Equality," is a program which appeals to communities to address the problem of sex buying. The multi-pronged approach uses education to explore the root causes of sex buying, teach prevention strategies, and encourage accountability to those who buy sex. He described a ten-week sex buyer education program, (often referred to as a "John School," he runs in Seattle which is geared to men). He said some of the attendees are court-mandated, while others are self-referrals. Those who attend are charged a fee for the course. Mr. Qualliotine said in his state, a \$1,500 fine is assessed in cases relating to commercial sexual exploitation, as well as a \$1,000 municipal fine. Half of the amount of the fines are dedicated to victim services. Mr. Qualliotine said he is available to conduct additional training.

Commissioners discussed making a future recommendation to the legislature for a possible similar type offender program in New Jersey.

2. Jessica Kitson, Managing Attorney, Volunteer Lawyers for Justice

Jessica Kitson, Esq, gave an overview of a report by the Survivor Reentry Project. Ms. Kitson said in 2019 she participated in a group of mainly local and state prosecutors from across the country to discuss vacatur laws. She said that although each state had a different law, the prosecutors found common best practices. She stressed the importance of assisting victims/survivors with obtaining criminal record relief through a victim-centered and trauma-informed process. Ms. Kitson explained that although New Jersey's Human Trafficking law allows for vacatur, many counties implement the law differently. She said a common problem is that vacatur applications are often mistakenly handled like expungement applications.

Ms. Kitson said she has noted improvements needed in several areas; training on the law with possibly having a designated person in each county court who processes human trafficking vacatur applications, expanding the types of offenses covered by the

vacatur law, and strengthening the confidentiality aspects of records. Ms. Kitson said she would prepare a written list of recommendations for the Commissioners to review and to consider for a possible vote. Commissioner Taggart recommended the creation of a chart to serve as a visual aid for the workings of the vacatur process.

3. Dawne Lomangino-DiMauro: Avanzar- Dream Free

Chairperson Lomangino-DiMauro gave a presentation on the services offered by Avanzar. One of its programs, the Dream Free program, offers a call and text hotline for 24/7 support. Some of the many services Avanzar provides to clients 21 and under include crisis counseling, protective shelters, legal advocacy, transitional housing, sexual violence services, domestic violence and intimate partner violence counseling, court advocacy, and the Fathers Ending Abuse program. She said if clients require other services the agency collaborates with other service providers.

Chairperson Lomangino-DiMauro discussed the interconnections between human trafficking and domestic violence and sexual violence. She said Avanzar utilizes the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) when working with clients. She also said Avanzar is a “key member” of the Youth Empowering Success (YES) program which currently operates in four counties. The Chairperson said the program strives to early identify at risk youth, offer prevention strategies, help build resiliency, and provide treatment.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. HT Survivor Assistance Program

Commissioner Ruebman told the committee she looked into the funding resources available for human trafficking services and after reviewing the amount of the fines being levied by the courts for human trafficking related crimes, she said she does not think there is “a suitable funding source to provide victim services.” She advised that there are number of other fines/fees that get accessed before the human trafficking fine is accessed.

Motion: Chairperson Lomangino-DiMauro made a motion to alert the legislature that a source of funding for human trafficking services does not exist. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ruebman. Motion passed unanimously.

In a separate initiative, there was discussion of conducting a survey of all resources for human trafficking funding, including state and federal funds. Commissioner Ruebman asked that all comments be sent to her within one to two weeks.

2. Human Trafficking Annual Report 2020 Draft

Motion: Chairperson Lomangino-Di-Mauro made a motion for any comments regarding the Commission on Human Trafficking Annual Report 2020 Draft be

submitted by February 5, 2021, so that they may be incorporated into a draft which could be sent out by February 12, 2021, with an expectant vote on February 17, 2021. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ruebman. Motion passed unanimously.

3. 2021 Meeting Dates

Motion: Chairperson Lomangino-DiMauro made a motion to set the third Wednesday of every month at 12:30 p.m. for Commission meetings. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hovde. Motion passed unanimously. Following is the list of 2021 meeting dates:

January 20, 2021

February 17, 2021

March 17, 2021

April 21, 2021

May 19, 2021

June 16, 2021

July 21, 2021

August 18, 2021

September 15, 2021

October 20, 2021

November 17, 2021

December 15, 2021

4. Human Trafficking Through the Public Health Lens

Commissioner Ruebman advised she and Commissioner Hovde have discussed looking at human trafficking as a “public health crisis.” They requested Commission members to access online resources they identified for a future Commission discussion. Commissioner Russell commented he was in support of the proposal.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Lomangino-DiMauro advised she recently attended a meeting with service providers and the subject of obtaining a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) was discussed. She said due to Covid-19, the process for applying for a TRO is online and that there is no help or support available, along with language barriers, for individuals trying to navigate the system. She said another Covid-19 related issue discussed

concerned the vaccine. She said undocumented individuals, which could include human trafficking victims/survivors, are not seeking the vaccine due to a lack of documentation. She suggested the Commission invite a legal advocate(s) to give a presentation at a meeting.

Motion: Chairperson Lomangino-DiMauro made a motion to limit the agenda of the next meeting to discussion of the Annual Report draft and the public health training. Motion seconded by Commissioner Taggart. Motion passed unanimously

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

Members of the public in attendance: Dawn Roane, Christine Guest, Sarah Lott.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Russell and seconded by Commissioner Ruebman. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

