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NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 17, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:30 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 March 10, 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, Timothy J. Gallagher, Aldina Hovde, Ingrid Johnson, Angelo Onofri, Rush L. Russell.

ABSENT COMMISSIONERS: William P. Monaghan, Marisol Rodriguez,

QUORUM WAS PRESENT.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathy Friess, Roman Guzik, Vicki Vreeland, Guest Speaker Dan Correa.



IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Commissioner Lomangino-DiMauro made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of February 17, 2021. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ingrid Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Commission on Human Trafficking Annual Report 2020

Chairperson Lomangino-DiMauro asked for discussion on the report. Commissioner Ruebman said she “rephrased” the explanation of a quorum and added a chart about the number of seats on the Commission. The appointment terms of Commissioners were also added to the report.

Motion: Commissioner Taggart made a motion to accept the Commission on Human Trafficking Annual Report 2020, seconded by Commissioner Rush L. Russell. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Presentation by Dr. Daniel Correa, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton

Dr. Correa, program coordinator for the Safe Passages Family Reunification program, told the Commission the Covid pandemic has been a trying time for his agency’s clients in a number of areas, particularly mental health. He said due to the pandemic necessitating virtual visits, many clients were affected by poor Wi-Fi service and the lack of computers or digital devices.

The pandemic also caused delays in clients receiving green cards, work permits, and resolving court matters. These delays have caused high anxiety levels. Dr. Correa said the practice of wearing masks has also caused anxiety for his human trafficking clients who think they see their traffickers near their homes or following them.

Other pandemic-related issues he noted were a rise in domestic violence incidences, more exposure to internet scams due to more time online, and concerns and fears about the Covid vaccines.

3. Human Trafficking Survivor’s Assistance Fund and Prostitution Offender Program (POP)

Commissioner Ruebman reported she has been working with the Department of Corrections to establish that all existing and new Human Trafficking fines will be transferred to the Survivor’s Fund. As for POP, she said she was in contact with the Administrative Office of the Courts and was advised that fines intended to be raised by this program won’t exist until there is a POP program to refer offenders to.

Commissioner Reubman suggested the Legislature be advised POP is not a realistic funding source for victim services.

Motion: Motion by Commissioner Lomangino-DiMauro to authorize Commissioner Ruebman to draft a letter to the Legislature informing them of the status and issues with the Survivor's Assistance Fund and POP and to present it at the next meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ruebman. Motion passed unanimously.

In addition, a working group was established to research and review funding sources for victim services, as well as to consider the reality/benefit of creating a Prostitution Offender Program. Volunteers for the working group include: Chairperson Dawne Lomnagino Di-Mauro, Commissioners Ingrid Johnson and Annmarie Taggart, and Kathy Friess.

4. NJ Assembly Bill 883 – Poster Draft

Discussion and agreement to change information on services from blue ink to black ink and to create the poster in as many languages as possible.

Motion: Chairperson Lomangino-DiMauro made a motion to accept the poster with the discussed changes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Rush. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion: Human Trafficking Through the Public Health Lens

Commissioners discussed how the Commission could begin to address Human Trafficking prevention through a public health perspective. Some suggestions included accessing information from the CDC or schools for Public Health, scheduling a presentation from HEAL, and identifying the public health experts in New Jersey to collaborate with to inform prevention efforts. It was decided a working group was needed to gather and review this information. Volunteers for the working group are: Chairperson Lomangino-DiMauro, Commissioners Hovde, Ruebman, Cavallo, and Johnson.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

Members of the public in attendance: None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Lomangino-DiMauro asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Hovde and seconded by Commissioner Cavallo. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 21, 2021 @ 12:30 p.m.

