



State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
FIVE EXECUTIVE CAMPUS SUITE 205
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
TELEPHONE: (856) 486-3900

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

ANDREW J. BRUCK
Acting Attorney General

LYNDSAY V. RUOTOLO
Director

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2022

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 14, 2022, 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, Co-Chairperson Angelo Onofri, Annmarie Taggart, Gina Cavallo, Bonny Fraser, Timothy J. Gallagher, Aldina Hovde, Ingrid Johnson.

ABSENT COMMISSIONERS: Maggie-Lou Mari.

QUORUM: NOT PRESENT.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathy Friess, Deputy Attorney General Tobey Palan, Deputy Attorney General Alyssa Bloom, Vicki Vreeland.



GUESTS/PUBLIC: Anthony D'Urso, Daniella Peterka-Benton, Francesca Laguardi, Julia Einbond, Rolidel Hormazabal, Sarah Lott, Sara Joslin, and Mandy Leverett.

Due to a lack of quorum, Chairperson Lomangino-DiMauro noted no voting would be conducted during the meeting, but members were permitted to discuss business. She introduced Dr. Anthony D'Urso and his team from Montclair State University, Daniella Peterka-Benton and Francesca Laguardi, to present a draft report on the data collection project aimed at understanding the scope of human trafficking in the state.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Report from Montclair State University

The team reported it began the project by searching for human trafficking data for the period 2018-2019. The team contacted the 21 county prosecutors' offices, NJSP, and various service providers. From these contacts, a series of interviews were conducted. Various agencies were asked, among other questions, if they had available data on human trafficking cases, how a human trafficking case is defined, if the agency saw sex trafficking or labor trafficking cases or both, and how staff was trained to recognize a human trafficking case.

The team said it quickly became apparent there was a lack of human trafficking quantitative data being collected throughout the state. They mentioned there was an indication human trafficking statistical data collection is improving with increased attention on human trafficking, but that data for 2018-2019 was slim. The following were some problems identified with data collection:

- a. Most agencies did not maintain data in an easily searchable/retrievable form.
- b. Data often stemmed from investigations and it was raw, not verified.
- c. Data was not maintained consistently or in a uniformed manner.

The team said of the statistics it did receive, service providers reported much higher numbers of human trafficking cases than law enforcement agencies. The statistics showed females were overwhelmingly identified as victim/survivors while males were predominantly identified as the perpetrators of human trafficking.

Regarding qualitative data, agencies involved agreed on several issues such as:

- a. A need for increased collaboration and a sharing of expertise.
- b. A need for improved data collection and data sharing, possibly through a data collection portal.
- c. A need for increased resources for human trafficking and training.

The team concluded with the following recommendations:

- a. Regional Investigative Teams
- b. Intelligence and the Development of Diversionary Programs.
- c. Development of Regional Task Forces and Case Management.

d. An annual statewide Human Trafficking Conference.

Commissioners thanked the Montclair team for the report and presentation. Some commissioners commented they felt it may not be possible to ever capture the true statistics of human trafficking and that the data may not be as important as other issues of human trafficking.

2. 2021 Annual Report

Following the Montclair presentation, Chairperson Lomangino Di-Mauro discussed the Annual Report and asked Commission members who worked on specific projects to submit the information for the report. She said Commissioner Hovde's research on Human Trafficking as a Public Health Issue should be included in the report, as well as reporting on the shortage of commissioners. Co-Chairperson Onofri volunteered to submit information regarding New Jersey's vacatur laws.

3. New Meeting Schedule/Time

Due to a number of schedule conflicts, Commission members agreed to move the monthly meeting date from the third Wednesday of the month to the fourth. The time will also change to 1 p.m.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sara Joslin, co-vice president for Church Women United in NJ, commented that she thought data collection was important, especially to show the trends in Human Trafficking. She said her group was putting on a seminar this February on the United Nations, Human Trafficking, and Racial Justice.

Mandy Leverett, asked questions about the process of commissioner appointments, quorums, and interactions with service providers who do not receive government funding. Chairperson Lomangino-Di Mauro addressed the questions while Commissioner Hovde offered that a Service Provider directory is posted on the NJ Coalition against Human Trafficking.

Sarah Lott, deputy director of Sanar Institute, commented in support of the data collection project.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended approximately 2:14 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: February 23, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m.