



INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Human Trafficking Ad Hoc Committee

Minutes

November 7, 2016

2:30 p.m. EST

Members in Attendance:

1. Anne Connor (NV) Chair
2. Maria Genca (CT) Designee
3. Agnes Denson (FL) Commissioner
4. Alicia Ehlers (ID) Designee
5. Mia Pressley (SC) Commissioner
6. Lisa Beeson (AZ) Ex officio
7. Jefferson Regis (DC) Ex officio
8. Holly Kassube (IL) Ex officio
9. Maxine Baggett (MS) Ex officio
10. Maureen Blaha (NRS) Ex officio

Members Not in Attendance:

1. Traci Marchand (NC) Commissioner
2. Cathlyn Smith (TN) Commissioner
3. Tony DeJesus (CA) Ex officio
4. Amy Howell (KY) Ex officio
5. Angela Bridgewater (LA) Ex officio
6. Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ) Ex officio
7. Kelly Palmateer (NY) Ex officio
8. Trissie Casanova (VT) Ex officio

Guests in Attendance:

None

ICJ Staff in Attendance:

1. Ashley Lippert, Executive Director
2. Emma Goode, Administrative and Logistics Coordinator
3. Shawn Robinson, Training and Administrative Coordinator

Call to Order

Chair Connor called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. EDT.

Roll Call

A. Lippert called the roll and a quorum was established.

Agenda

A. Denson (FL) made a motion to approve the agenda. A. Ehlers (ID) seconded. The motion passed.

Minutes

M. Genca (CT) made a motion to approve the July 12, 2016 meeting minutes. A. Ehlers (ID) seconded. The motion passed.

Discussion

Resources

1. Arrest of CEO of Backpage
Wake Forrest Law Review – “Defense of Backpage”
2. Shedding Light on Sex Trafficking Research
3. Shared Hope – JuST Conference Agenda
4. Youth Involvement in the Sex Trade A National Study

Arrest of CEO of Backpage and Wake Forrest Law Review – “Defense of Backpage”

- Chair Connor presented an article reporting that Carl Ferrer was arrested in Houston, Texas on a warrant from California, which charged him with human trafficking and his association with the website, *Backpage*, whose business practices and policies have been under scrutiny for illegal sex trade.
- Chair Connor updated on another resource not shared prior to the meeting from a Wake Forest Law Review presentation entitled “Defense of Backpage”. The presentation claimed that eliminating Backpage would not reduce human trafficking and stated that in fact the website has assisted law enforcement with the location of human trafficking victims, and has led to the arrest and conviction of traffickers.
- M. Genca (CT) shared a case wherein law enforcement assisted in the location of a runaway.

Shedding Light of Sex Trafficking

- Chair Connor presented a resource dated May 2016 entitled *Shedding Light of Sex Trafficking: Research, Data, and Technologies with the Greatest Impact*. Chair Connor highlighted key points throughout the article and the committee discussed as outlined below.
 - Unreliable data. The research reported 50-98% of the human trafficking victims with a history in the child welfare system.
 - Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) statistics. In 2012, 98 percent of Connecticut CSEC population was not only system-involved but had the highest instances of reported abuse while in residential treatment or foster care. M. Genca (CT) will research the Human Rights Project for Girls, 2015, and report back at the next meeting
 - The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthen Families Act (2014). The Act requires states to report the number of youth running from foster care who are involved in human trafficking. States shared there to be no direct correlation to the increased number of youth reported. M. Genca (CT) commented that human trafficking appears to be more prevalent in part due to greater awareness through new state protocols and screening tools.
 - U.S. Trends. The highest volume of sex traffickers in the study ranked the following as the top five: California, Texas, Florida, New York, and Ohio. These states are particularly vulnerable to sex trafficking due to the number of airports and ports to international borders.

- Types of Traffickers. The article identifies seven types of human traffickers:
 1. State Imposed
 2. Organized Crime and Gangs
 3. Romeo (most prevalent)
 4. CEO
 5. Gorilla
 6. Family, Guardians, and Peers
 7. Secondary Profiteers
- Chair Connor encouraged the members to scan the document and to retain as a reference resource.

Shared-Hope-DC-JuST-Conference

- Chair Connor presented the agenda for the upcoming JuST Conference November 9-11, 2016 in Washington, DC. She encouraged members to review the agenda topics and the presenters noting that the presenters would be a viable human trafficking resource within their states.

Youth Involvement in the Sex Trade

- Chair Connor presented the national study dated June 2016 entitled Youth Involvement in the Sex Trade. Due to lack of time, Chair Connor will forward highlights from the study before the next meeting.

State Updates

- L. Beeson (AZ) shared information about a recent return with Kansas. There appeared to be a communication breakdown to determine the youth to be a victim of human trafficking. Chair Connor share past discussions with Trudy Gregorie (ICJ Victims Representative) and will follow up with Trudy regarding criteria required for FBI involvement in human trafficking cases.
- H. Kassube (IL) updated that Illinois passed legislation in August to create a State Human Trafficking Task Force. The task force has been charged to develop a statewide plan to address human trafficking, which will include an intrastate data sharing system. Additionally, one of the new task force members will serve as a viable human trafficking resource in Illinois.
- M. Pressley (SC) reported attending a presentation on human trafficking during a South Carolina Children's Law Conference.
- A. Ehlers (ID) updated that Idaho continues to finalize the Idaho State Task Force membership.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

- M. Blaha (Runaways Ex Officio) updated that the Home Free Greyhound bus program has been expanded to age 21 for runaways and to include human trafficking victims.
- M. Blaha agreed to forward information to the National Office for posting on the Commission's Website.

Adjourn

- The next meeting is January 10, 2017 @ 2:30 p.m. EST.
- **Chair Connor adjourned the meeting without objection at 3:39 p.m. EST.**