

MICHIGAN HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION



2021 REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE



COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ms. Kelly Carter, Commission Chair, Michigan Department of Attorney General

Mr. Forrest Pasanski, Vice-Chair, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

Ms. Jayshona Hicks, Office of the Governor (partial year – now vacant)

Ms. Debi Cain, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Victim Services, Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board

D/Lt. Edward Price, Michigan State Police

Hon. Lisa K. McCormick, Ingham County Circuit Court, Family Division

Mr. Jeff S. Getting, Kalamazoo County Prosecuting Attorney

Chief Chad Baugh, Canton Township Police Department

Ms. Judy Emmons, Office of Senator Rick Outman; Emmons Farms

Ms. Kathy Maitland, Michigan Abolitionist Project

Ms. Elizabeth Moon Carter, The Salvation Army

Mr. Hassan Beydoun, City of Detroit

Ms. Joyce A. Dixson-Haskett, Daylily Health, LLC

Ms. Alice Johnson, Neighborhood Legal Services of Michigan; Sister Survivor National Connect

Message from the Attorney General: Dana Nessel

Dear Reader:

This year saw the expiration of the two-year terms of nine of the 14 Commission seats. Unfortunately, the Commission said farewell to five members: Shari Montgomery, Hon. Michelle Rick, Prosecuting Attorney David Leyton, Deborah Monroe, and Fadowa Harrel. The Commission was well served by these departing members and we thank each for their time, service and contributions.

Those departures meant that the Commission welcomed new termed appointees: returning Commissioner Kathy Maitland, Hon. Lisa McCormick, Prosecuting Attorney Jeff Getting, Joyce Dixson-Haskett, and Alice Johnson. We were pleased to welcome the reappointment of Judy Emmons, Elizabeth Moon-Carter, Hassan Beydoun and Chief Chad Baugh.

The Governor's designee also changed this year. Alicia Moon represented the Governor's office for a brief time, succeeded by Jayshona Hicks until she left the Governor's office at the end of May. The Commission eagerly awaits a new designee from the Governor's office.

In spite of the membership changes, it didn't take long for the body to coalesce. Our new members fit right in, bringing new perspectives and fresh ideas. In fact, the Commission has shown remarkable progress this year identifying and creating meaningful and valuable information on human trafficking. The Funding and Resources Committee created and hosted a 4-part workshop series on Building Capacity for Funding Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts. The Public Awareness Committee deployed the public awareness campaign through regularly issued updates on human trafficking information and the Training and Education Committee approved for availability on the Commission website a slew of new trainings.

Also this year, the Commission welcomed new leadership with the election of Vice-Chair, Forrest Pasanski of LARA who replaces our inaugural Vice-Chair, Prosecutor David Leyton. The procedure of electing our new Vice-Chair led to a full review of the Commission bylaws, originally adopted in 2015 and unchanged since. The most significant update to the bylaws expanded the opportunity for Commissioners to participate remotely in full Commission meetings. However, the bylaw review also reminded us that the work of the Commission is divided into "Committees," rather than subcommittees. Thus, you may note that change in terminology throughout this report.



This year saw continued, even renewed, attention to the crime of human trafficking. The issuance of human trafficking charges against John Geddert, and the conviction of R. Kelly and Ghislaine Maxwell of human trafficking all continue to highlight the realities of trafficking, including victim vulnerabilities, methods of recruitment and exploitation.

As we look ahead, I am encouraged by continued attention to the crime, its victims and survivors and efforts to prevent trafficking. I continue to be impressed with the Commission's accomplishments, especially considering its lack of funding. Yet, though the dedication and passion of the Commission members, community partners and Department of Attorney General staff, the Commission continues to progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Nessel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dana Nessel
Attorney General, State of Michigan

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BACKGROUND

The first Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking was launched in March 2013. The Commission immediately began gathering information. Numerous experts gave presentations to the Commission, including those in law enforcement, health care, academia, non-profit organizations, and Attorneys General from other states. The Commission also heard heart-breaking survivor testimonies. That work resulted in a comprehensive package of bills that the Legislature enacted and was signed into law in 2014. The legislation included safe harbor provisions and stronger tools to hold traffickers accountable. It also created the Michigan Human Trafficking Commission, a standing commission within the Department of Attorney General. By statute, the Commission has five members designated by various state agencies and other organizations and nine members appointed by the Governor to represent various groups and officials. The Commission's mission as set forth in statute, Public Act 325 of 2014, includes the following:

Section 4(a). Identify sources for grants that will assist in examining and countering human trafficking in this state and apply for those grants when appropriate.

Section 4(b). Fund research programs to determine the extent and nature of human trafficking in this state.

Section 4(c). Provide information and training regarding human trafficking to police officers, prosecutors, court personnel, health care providers, social services personnel, and other individuals the commission considers appropriate.

Section 4(d). Collect and analyze information regarding human trafficking in this state.

Section 4(e). Identify state and local agencies within this state and other states, as well as within the federal government, that are involved with issues related to human trafficking, and coordinate the dissemination of information regarding human trafficking in this state to those agencies.

Section 4(f). Review the existing services available to assist victims of human trafficking, including crime victim assistance, health care, and legal assistance, and establish a program to make those victims better aware of the services that are available to them.

Section 4(g). Establish a program to improve public awareness of human trafficking.

Section 4(h). Review state laws and administrative rules relating to human trafficking and make recommendations to the legislature to improve those laws and rules to address human trafficking violations in this state.



"I am extremely impressed with the progress the Commission has made this year. The pandemic has required the Commission to be flexible and adapt while continuing to accomplish their mission. The Commission has exceeded all expectations."

—Dana Nessel, Michigan Attorney General

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

The Human Trafficking Commission operates with seven committees:

- 1. Data Collection and Research:** This committee is charged with reviewing strategies to collect statewide data to enable policymakers and law enforcement to assess progress in their efforts to tackle this growing problem.
- 2. Funding and Resources:** This committee is charged with identifying and applying for potential grants and other forms of funding.
- 3. Policy and Legislation:** This committee is charged with reviewing Michigan's human trafficking laws and policies to determine whether new legislation or policy changes are required.
- 4. Public Awareness:** This committee is charged with developing strategies to raise public awareness of human trafficking.
- 5. Training and Education:** This committee is charged with reviewing existing training efforts for professionals and determining how those efforts can be enhanced and expanded. These professionals include various groups who may encounter human trafficking such as: law enforcement, health care providers, social-service providers, hospitality providers, and those in code enforcement and regulatory agencies.
- 6. Victim Services:** This committee is charged with reviewing the needs of human trafficking survivors to determine how those needs can be met at the local and state levels.
- 7. Courts/Summit:** This committee was established in October 2015. The subcommittee focuses on planning future conferences and working cooperatively with Michigan courts on human trafficking issues.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Michigan Human Trafficking Commission met on the following dates during 2021:

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Wednesday, November 10, 2021



“I am continually impressed by the Commission’s accomplishments. In a year that saw significant changes in membership, the group was invigorated. Having focused last year on setting standards, this year, the Michigan Human Trafficking Commission has set an impressive pace of identifying and providing valuable information to assist those learning about the crime, the needs of victims, and those fighting the fight.”

--Kelly Carter, Michigan Human Trafficking Commission Chair

DATA COLLECTION AND RESEARCH

Committee Members:

*Ms. Elizabeth Moon Carter, Committee Chair, The Salvation Army
Chief Chad Baugh, Canton Township Police Department*

Ms. Joyce A. Dixon-Haskett, Daylily Health, LLC

Mr. Forrest Pasanski, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

Mr. Kristopher McNeil, Measurable Change

The Committee began the year focusing on how to best analyze and utilize a set of data collected from service providers in Southeast Michigan who had provided services to victims and survivors of human trafficking from 2015 – 2019. The Subcommittee's goal in reviewing the data is to determine how this information may be used to meaningfully improve services to survivors. The Salvation Army has served as the data hub for reports from these service providers, due to the Salvation Army's receipt of a federal grant. The analysis of this data has proved challenging due to lack of consistency or incompleteness in the reporting.

Review of that data led the Committee to conclude that there is a need to concisely identify and create a standardized data reporting framework specifically for victim service providers with categories for victim typology and services provided. The goal of this project is to identify for providers the types of data which should be tracked. Once the data set is identified, the Committee will begin collecting data from service providers across the state to provide a periodic snapshot of trends in human trafficking victimization and service provision across Michigan. Ultimately, the Committee intends to publish this data on the Commission's webpage as a valuable resource, especially for organizations applying for grants and crafting policy and legislation.

The Committee has completed a draft document defining the victim typology and service list, drawing from definitions found in federal grant reporting requirements for human trafficking service providers. To help validate terms and categories used in the document and understand data collection methods currently used by service providers, the Committee has begun the process of obtaining input from a diverse group of providers from across the state.

Additional data was gathered by the Policy and Legislation Committee seeking data in support of pending legislation proposing to overhaul the penal code's approach to prostitution. To that end, the Policy and Legislation Committee has collected state-wide data on prostitution arrests and charges over the past decade from the Michigan Incident Crime Reporting database maintained by the Michigan State Police (MSP) and the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan. The Committee will work to identify a partnership with an academic institution to assist in reviewing and analyzing the collected data.



"I am proud of the continued work and progress of the Commission this year. The Commission continues to strengthen Michigan's response to combating human trafficking."

-- D/Lt. Edward Price, Michigan State Police

FUNDING AND RESOURCES

Committee Members:

Ms. Margaret Talburtt, Committee Chair

Mr. Hassan Beydoun, City of Detroit

Ms. Debi Cain, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Victim Services, Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board

Ms. Jayshona Hicks, Office of the Governor

The Committee finished up 2020 with new enthusiasm for providing resources to those entities hoping to obtain funding for their anti-human trafficking efforts. The Committee began the year planning a series of half-day virtual workshops to equip potential grantees with tools, resources, and information to successfully apply for, receive and administer grant funding.

The committee proceeded to develop a curriculum for potential grant applicants ranging from funding for beginners all the way up to strategies for securing federal grants. The Committee, together with the Michigan Abolitionist Project (MAP), led by Commissioner Kathy Maitland, created three separate half day workshops providing tools, resources, and information to successfully apply for, receive, and administer a variety of funding resources to support provision of services to victims of trafficking. The first three free workshops in the “Building Capacity for Funding Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts” were offered virtually in March of 2021, in anticipation of the spring cycle of federal grant announcements.

Part 1: Is My Organization Ready to Apply for Grant Funding?

Part 2: Fund Development Overview

Part 3: Federal Grants: The Process and Development of Your Resources

Presenters for each workshop were selected for their expertise, experience and success procuring funding for service provision organizations, especially those serving victims and survivors of human trafficking. Each workshop was well attended and well received. The workshops were recorded and are available on the Commission’s webpage free of charge.

After the very positive feedback from the first three workshops, the Committee recognized that a fourth session was needed to increase understanding on state Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) fund applications and administration. The Committee, again with MAP, planned and presented a fourth free three-hour virtual workshop in November. The Committee again sought out experts and were happy to include staff from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Victim Services, administrators of state VOCA funding, together with panelists experienced in obtaining and administering VOCA grants. The VOCA workshop was also recorded. Now, the Commission website is home to the entire four-part workshop series, free to all.

The Committee looks forward to continuing to support those pursuing funding for anti-human trafficking efforts by focusing next on developing published resources to aid in grant applications including a fact sheet providing information about human trafficking in Michigan. The Committee is looking forward to working with the Data and Research Committee to utilize the standardized data collected from their ongoing data project.



"I'm especially proud of the work the Commission has done this past year. Despite an ongoing pandemic, the Commission increased efforts to connect service providers with funding, advocate for legislation, and dispel myths and misconceptions about this horrific crime."

-- Hassan Beydoun, City of Detroit

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Committee Members:

Ms. Kelly Carter, Committee Chair, Assistant Attorney General

Mr. Hassan Beydoun, City of Detroit

Mr. Jeff S. Getting, Kalamazoo County Prosecuting Attorney

Hon. Lisa K. McCormick, Ingham County Circuit Court, Family Division

D/Lt. Edward Price, Michigan State Police

In late 2019, the Commission voted to recommend a package of 30 bills addressing issues related to human trafficking including mandatory training, criminal justice issues and prostitution. The recommendations resulted from a Legislative Workgroup comprised of bi-cameral and bipartisan legislators, legislative staff as well as stakeholders such as law-enforcement and victim service providers. The group worked through the second half of 2019 on a number of legislative proposals across three categories: criminal justice, training, and funding. While the resulting package was comprised primarily of criminal justice and training proposals the workgroup identified a number of proposals that are worthy of additional consideration.

By early 2020, all but one of the Commission recommendations had been introduced as bills in the Michigan Legislature. Unfortunately, shortly thereafter, the Covid-19 pandemic took hold and consumed the legislative focus. During 2021, the majority of the 30 bills had been reintroduced. There was some legislative action on the introduced bills this year. In March, several bill sponsors, Attorney General Dana Nessel and Commission Chair, Kelly Carter testified before the House Judiciary Committee in support of the package. In May, Chair Carter testified again before the House Judiciary Committee in support of several of the bills individually. However, movement on the package seemed to end there. The Committee continues to back the proposals and will work for their reintroduction next year. The package is detailed below.

The 2019-2020 Human Trafficking Legislative Package Reintroduced in 2021

Criminal Justice:

The workgroup developed a number of criminal justice proposals either directly benefitting trafficking victims or strengthening prosecutor tools to hold traffickers accountable.

STRENGTHENING VICTIM AND SURVIVOR PROTECTIONS

Expanded Minor Rebuttable Presumption: Recognizing the many challenges that minor sex trafficking victims face, the workgroup developed a proposal to expand the rebuttable presumption afforded to minors found in commercial sexual activity situation. Previously, a minor who was presumed to be a victim of sex trafficking was required to substantially comply with court-ordered services in order to preserve that presumption. Now, rather than failure to comply with court-ordered services being a complete bar to a minor benefitting from the presumption, a court can consider the minor's compliance a factor to consider in continuing the presumption.

Expansion of adult and juvenile HT victim expungement: Expanding the special human trafficking expungement to apply to all crimes will allow survivors to clear their record of convictions for crimes committed as a result of trafficking.

As the Commission works with those who assist survivors of trafficking, we are enlightened in the ways that victims continue to suffer. Previously, the Commission had proposed bills allowing victims to clear their trafficking-related convictions for minor state prostitution offenses. That was expanded to include previously overlooked minor prostitution ordinance violations, only to again realize we have victims who are prevented relief because they were, instead, charged with loitering or disorderly person as a "common prostitute."

Rather than continuing to incrementally expand the commercial sex-related crime list, the Commission is recommending a more comprehensive expansion of the Safe Harbor expungement beyond the current commercial sex-related crimes. Through repeated and continuous interaction with victims in both a service provision scenario as well as victims cooperating in criminal prosecution, we repeatedly see victims who are forced by their traffickers to engage in other types of criminal activity commonly including drug offenses, theft offenses, gun offenses and other various offenses. In recognition of the realities of human trafficking victims, there are two bills that seek to expand expungement opportunities for human trafficking victims under an adult approach as well as expansion of expungement for juvenile offenses.

Affirmative Defense for Victims of Human Trafficking: Along the same lines as expungement, the Commission has recommended creation of an affirmative defense for victims of human trafficking to prevent future convictions for crimes committed as a result of trafficking. The proposal would create an affirmative defense to any crime for a victim of human trafficking who can establish that the commission of the crime was a direct result of their being a victim of human trafficking.

STRENGTHENING TOOLS TO HOLD TRAFFICKERS ACCOUNTABLE

Amend Expert Testimony for Human Trafficking cases: For years, case-law in Michigan (as across the country) has been developing to allow expert testimony at trial to explain victim behavior where it would seem to deviate from what the general public would expect. The development has come in the areas of domestic violence and sexual assaults, but there have been no cases in Michigan extending the same to human trafficking cases. The same challenges exist in human trafficking cases as domestic violence and sexual assault cases, indeed even more so in human trafficking cases.

Although a law was enacted in 2017 that sought to permit the introduction of expert witness testimony, that new provision only goes so far as allowing the expert testimony if it “is otherwise admissible under the rules of evidence as laws of this state.” MCL 750.762g(2). Unfortunately, the amendment as enacted fails to be specific enough to address the problem. The proposed amendment would specifically codify case law which sets forth the appropriate standard a court should apply in determining who meets the qualifications to provide expert testimony under these circumstances.

Expand Statutory Immunity for Compelled Testimony to Human Trafficking Chapter:

The prostitution chapter includes statutory immunity for any person compelled to give testimony in a case involving charges from the prostitution chapter. No doubt, this is in recognition that those who have committed criminal acts such as prostitution, would be unwilling to provide testimony about those controlling the prostitution for fear of exposing themselves to criminal liability. This is equally true – if not more so – in human trafficking cases. Accordingly, we are recommending that the prostitution immunity provision be added to the human trafficking chapter.

Include Human Trafficking in propensity evidence expansion: Last year’s sexual assault package saw the expansion of the introduction of propensity evidence in domestic violence and sexual assault cases to now include sexual assault crimes committed against adults. Again, given the incredible similarities between domestic violence, sexual assault and trafficking cases – particularly sex trafficking, the Commission is recommending adding human trafficking to the class of crimes in which propensity evidence is admissible.

NEW COMMERCIAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY STATUTE: MODERNIZING THE PROSTITUTION CHAPTER

Finally, in recognition of the inescapable overlap between sex trafficking and “prostitution” there are over a dozen proposals that fundamentally alter the landscape with regard to what should formally be known as prostitution. Starting from realization that nowhere previously in Michigan state statute was the crime of “prostitution” ever defined, but more importantly, recognizing the stigma and judgment that is so often inflicted with the use of the term “prostitution” the Commission embraced the recommendation that we replace the term “prostitution” throughout Michigan law with the defined term: commercial sexual activity. The package contains over a dozen recommendations that seek to strike the term prostitution and all references to it throughout the Michigan code. Instead that term would be replaced with the term commercial sexual activity that is defined in the human trafficking chapter as generally, a sex act provided in exchange for something of value.

In addition to the change of terminology, the package includes recommendations for additional changes to the former prostitution - now commercial sexual activity statute – chapter. Those proposals would clearly and unambiguously define the crimes of providing commercial sexual activity and obtaining commercial sexual activity. The crime of providing commercial sexual activity would not only specifically include an exemption for commercial sexual activity provided through force fraud or coercion [sex trafficking], but would also create an exemption for a victim of pandering - a 20 year felony - wherein the panderer through inducement, persuasion or encouragement, by promise, threat or scheme, causes the “provider” to engage in the commercial sexual act.

What’s more, this recommendation seeks to recognize the increased level of vulnerability of those providing commercial sexual acts as opposed to those from a position of power obtaining commercial sexual acts. To that end the recommendation would decrease penalties for providers of commercial sexual activity to misdemeanors while conversely increasing penalties for obtainers of commercial sexual activity to all felonies. Additional changes to the former prostitution -now commercial sexual activity statute would replace archaic language with more applicable and appropriate descriptions of the realities of commercial sexual activity today. Thus, terminology such as “house of ill fame,” or “bawdy house” would be replaced with terminology accurately reflecting the current state of commercial sexual activity.

2019 Proposals to be Reintroduced

As identified above, the 2019 legislative Recommendations by the Commission included a number of legislative proposals aimed at addressing human trafficking training. These recommendations were not reintroduced this year. The Committee will continue to work for reintroduction and passage of these proposals.

Training: The work regarding human trafficking training legislation focused on developing mandates for additional professionals to receive training in human trafficking. Included in the 2014 human trafficking legislative package was a mandate that licensed health professionals receive training on human trafficking prior to licensure or re-licensure. This original mandate directed the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) to work with each board responsible for licensing the various health professional to develop rules and procedures regarding the human trafficking training. The various boards developed consistent, if non-specific, rules for what would satisfy the training mandate.

Yet, the effectiveness of the training mandate has been evident. Requests for training and presentations have increased dramatically. Moreover, reports to the National Human Trafficking tip-line by health professionals has increased noticeably.

Given the demonstrated success in mandating training for healthcare licensees, the workgroup identified additional professions that were amenable to mandated training on human trafficking. While the list was longer, several professions were not as amenable to a mandate as they are not regulated or licensed by a centralized entity.

While there was consideration of implementing training for hotel and hospitality professionals, continued work will be necessary to develop an approach that effectively targets that group. Regarding other identified professions, who are licensed or regulated, the workgroup developed a working template for implementing human trafficking training in this package and going forward. The approach is two-pronged: the mandate on the licensing side and the added Commission requirement to develop minimum standards for training.

On the licensing side, each new mandate requires the licensing entity to develop training which references recommendations for minimum standards for training. Those professions that will now be required to receive human trafficking training for licensure include commercial driver's, educators and educational-based counselors, and cosmetologists.

On the training standards side, the companion bill now amends the Human Trafficking Commission Act to develop those minimum standards for training. Thus, going forward, as other licensed and regulated professions are identified as being appropriate for mandated human trafficking training, each mandate will reference the minimum standards for training developed by the Commission.

In addition to the package already introduced, the Commission's Policy and Legislative Committee will continue to work on the area of identifying reliable sustained funding for the Human Trafficking Commission, victim services and training on human trafficking, as well as evaluating emerging trends in nation-wide human trafficking legislative efforts.



"It has been an honor to serve on the Commission. Human trafficking remains one of the dark secrets in our state. The work that the Commission is doing to expose what is happening, to make sure that our law enforcement partners have the laws and resources that they need to properly investigate it, and to hold those persons responsible that engage in these crimes is incredibly important. Most importantly, I am proud of the work being done to not only protect the victims from their abusers but also to make sure that the criminal justice system recognizes that they are victims and that they are being treated that way."

– Jeff S. Getting, Kalamazoo County Prosecuting Attorney

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Committee Members:

Ms. Kelly Carter, Committee Chair, Michigan Department of Attorney General

Ms. Joyce A. Dixon-Haskett, Daylily Health, LLC

Ms. Judy Emmons, Office of Senator Rick Outman; Emmons Farms

Ms. Jayshona Hicks, Office of the Governor

Ms. Alice Johnson, Neighborhood Legal Services of Michigan; Sister Survivor National Connect

Ms. Kathy Maitland, Michigan Abolitionist Project

Mr. Kristopher McNeil, Measurable Change

The Committee began the year in January of 2021, facilitating collaboration between the Commission and the Governor's office for issuance of a gubernatorial proclamation of January as Human Trafficking Awareness month in the State of Michigan.

Throughout 2020, the Committee focused on developing an infrastructure to deliver a comprehensive Human Trafficking Awareness campaign via social media. The Committee's focus during 2021 was deploying the delivery of the Human Trafficking Public Awareness material.

Utilizing the "updates" section of the website, information on human trafficking is available to interested parties upon viewing on the website directly or via subscription delivered via email or other social media platforms. These updates now include information about the Commission as well as general information on human trafficking, such as articles on the issue, information about changes in state and federal laws on trafficking, reports on work on human trafficking issues from across the state and other pertinent information.

Equipped with the guidelines for providing human trafficking resources developed last year, the Committee worked to identify, evaluate, and recommend for distribution as updates a library full of helpful human trafficking resources. The updates are delivered bi-weekly via email to over eight hundred subscribers, and are available on the webpage.

The Committee reviewed and recommended the following for distribution as public awareness updates:

From the Office of Victims of Crime at the Office of Justice Programs:

- “The Faces of Human Trafficking,” a one-minute Public Service Announcement.
- “An Introduction to Human Trafficking in the United States,” a fact sheet.
- “Faces of Human Trafficking Video 1: An Introduction,” a video introducing the issue of human trafficking—both sex and labor trafficking—in the United States.
- “The Legal Rights and Needs of Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States,” a fact sheet.
- “Know the Faces of Human Trafficking Posters – Suamhirs,” a poster depicting male survivor.
- “Faces of Human Trafficking Video 2: An Introduction to Sex Trafficking,” a video providing an overview of sex trafficking featuring survivors and professionals.
- “The Special Issues Facing Juvenile Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States,” a fact sheet.
- “Building Effective Collaborations to Address Human Trafficking,” a fact sheet.

From The Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force, in collaboration with Professor Bridgette Carr, Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives and Clinical Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School, a series of short videos addressing Myths Surrounding Human Trafficking:

- “Super Bowl”
- “Kidnappings”
- “Invisible Labor”
- “Things”
- “Ranked”
- “Why Don’t We Know”
- “Who is a Victim”
- “Reality”
- “Change Our Focus”
- “Our Kids”
- “Success”
- “We Created Demand”
- “What is Trafficking”

From Polaris Project:

- “On-Ramps, Intersections, and Exit Routes: A Roadmap for Systems and Industries to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking,” a report summary highlighting the connection between human trafficking and legitimate segments of industries and businesses.
- “The Typology of Modern Slavery: Defining Sex and Labor Trafficking in the United States,” a summary and video of a larger analysis of human trafficking cases.
- “Understanding and Reporting Human Trafficking,” a public awareness video in collaboration with Uber and introduced by Michigan Attorney General Nessel.

From the Administration for Children and Families, a division of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services “Out of the Shadows: Exposing the Myths of Human Trafficking,” a flyer addressing myths about human trafficking.

From the Michigan Department of Attorney General “Safe Harbor for Trafficking Victims in Michigan,” a fact sheet on statutory protections for sex trafficking victims in Michigan.

The Committee continues to identify, evaluate and recommend informative resources to keep the public informed about human trafficking.



“The Commission is a team of experts in their perspective fields, coming together to bring information, training and resources to the communities throughout Michigan on human trafficking. It is a great honor to be a part of the Commission. We are working hard collectively and separately to bring the most accurate and current best practices available to the public for the benefit of the people.”

– Alice Johnson, Neighborhood Legal Services of Michigan; Sister Survivor National Connect

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Committee Members:

*Chief Chad Baugh, Committee Chair, Canton Township Police Department,
Mr. Jeff S. Getting, Kalamazoo County Prosecuting Attorney
Mr. Forrest Pasanski, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
D/Lt. Edward Price, Michigan State Police
Hon. Lisa K. McCormick, Ingham County Circuit Court, Family Division
Mr. Kristopher McNeil, Measurable Change
Mr. Andy Soper, Measurable Change*

After developing and adopting guidelines for evaluation of third-party trainings in 2020, the Training and Education Committee focused on implementing the evaluation process by reviewing a number of training materials on human trafficking for various professional audiences. The Committee had identified a number of online publicly available training sources.

Throughout 2021, the Committee evaluated and recommended posting of a number of valuable trainings. The full Commission approved and recommended the following trainings for posting on the Commission webpage:

- “Mapping Exploitation – Escort Services,” by Measurable Change, a two-hour online interactive training;
- “Addressing Human Trafficking in Healthcare Settings,” by University of Michigan Human Trafficking Collaborative, a two-hour online training with CEUs;
- “The Crime of Human Trafficking,” by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), including a series of Roll-Call Training Videos consisting of three short videos
 - Defining the Crime
 - Identifying and Responding
 - Investigating and Interviewing

together with a more extensive resource: “A Law Enforcement Guide to Identification and Investigation.”

The Committee will continue to identify, evaluate, and recommend for posting on the Commission’s training website additional valuable human trafficking training for professionals.

The Commission also approved a Commission sponsored training: “Sex Trafficking Investigations for Law Enforcement: Sleuthing Force, Fraud or Coercion–Dispelling the “Consensual” Myth.” This training was a culmination of ongoing conversations across the Policy and Legislation, Victim Services, and Funding and Resources committees. The training is expected to be developed by early 2022 and offered early in the year.

Also stemming from collaboration with the Policy and Legislation Committee, early planning is underway on creating a training for the defense bar for those who may be (unknowingly) representing victims of sex trafficking with a view toward highlighting statutory protections available for sex trafficking victims.



“As a member of this commission, I am impressed with the knowledge, background, and expertise of all commission members appointed. I am honored to work collectively towards ensuring public awareness and promoting education, as well as the training necessary to combat human trafficking.”

-- Hon. Lisa K. McCormick, Ingham County Circuit Court, Family Division

VICTIM SERVICES

Committee Members:

Ms. Kathy Maitland, Committee Chair, Michigan Abolitionist Project,
Ms. Debi Cain, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Victim Services, Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board
Ms. Elizabeth Moon Carter, The Salvation Army
Ms. Kelly Carter, Michigan Department of Attorney General
Ms. Joyce A. Dixon-Haskett, Daylily Health, LLC
Ms. Judy Emmons, Office of Senator Rick Outman; Emmons Farms
Ms. Alice Johnson, Neighborhood Legal Services of Michigan; Sister Survivor National Connect

The Victim Services Committee continued work this year on developing and deploying a Listening Tour to learn directly from survivors of human trafficking how best to serve them. The Listening Tour will allow members of the Commission a chance to hear, confidentially, from victims and survivors of labor and sex trafficking. The goal of the tour is to invite a diverse group of victim and survivor voices to fully inform the Committee's conversation on what services are available, what services are needed and how the delivery of those services can be improved.

The Committee received assistance from the Community Technical Assistance Collaborative (CTAC), at the University of Michigan, a community-university partnership that focuses on supporting nonprofits, schools, and governmental organization to build capacity while meeting the educational goals of students. CTAC assisted in the development of some of the support resources needed to conduct the Listening Tour and they will also help to compile a report based on the feedback obtained in the pilot. Although the report will protect participant's confidentiality, it will provide a useful summary and compilation of responses received.

The Committee convened its first Listening Tour pilot group in late December. As an initial step, the Committee will incorporate the input from the pilot to shape and improve the next two pilot sessions slated for early 2022. The Committee looks to complete the pilot phase by mid-year with a view toward implementing the full Listening Tour to be completed in late in 2022 or early 2023. The Committee looks to conduct ongoing listening sessions on periodic basis in coming years.

Continuing the 2020 theme of developing and deploying best practices, the Committee identified and evaluated an existing resource developed through the Administration of Children and Families. The “Guiding Principles for Agencies Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking” is an extensive resource which encompasses the values adopted by the Training and Education and Public Awareness Committees. In addition, the “Guiding Principles” includes an extensive framework for assessing an organization’s compliance with the principles as well as strategies for adopting and deploying the principles. The Committee considered adopting the Guiding Principles in its entirety. However, after consultation with stakeholders, the Committee determined stakeholder evaluation and input would ensure successful adoption and deployment in Michigan. To that end, the Committee convened a workgroup of state-wide victim service providers and stakeholders to come together on a continuing basis to support implementation of the Guiding Principles.

The workgroup met on a monthly basis throughout the second half of the year. The workgroup is currently consulting with the authors of the original document for guidance on implementation with the goal of recommending the adoption of their work product in 2022. Once adopted and published, the Commission anticipates the Commission will work with service providers and others to implement the best practices and work toward crafting a framework for assessment.



“The Commission has gained even more momentum this year – in the midst of another difficult year, a bright spot has been working with my fellow Commissioners and witnessing their passion and determination to enact change. The multi-disciplinary nature of the Commission allows for deeper change to happen across the state, which is crucial for this change to be effective. I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to work on such an important cause with such passionate people.”

– Elizabeth Moon Carter, The Salvation Army

CONCLUSION

Thank you to all the Commission members for their work during another year that saw continued challenges and transitions. A special thank you to outgoing members of the Commission whose terms ended on March 1, 2021: Ms. Shari Montgomery, the House of Promise; Mr. David Leyton, Vice-Chair, Genesee County Prosecutor; Ms. Deborah Monroe, Recovery Concepts of Michigan; and Ms. Fadowa Harrel. Thank you to the Office of the Governor designee Alicia Moon, for her contributions until February 2021, and her successor Jayshona Hicks until her departure in June 2021.

A special welcome back to Commissioner Kathy Maitland. Ms. Maitland had served as one of the initial commissioners from 2015-2019. From 2019 through the beginning of 2021 Ms. Maitland continued with the Commission as a partner providing her valuable talent and time. We were grateful and excited to welcome Ms. Maitland back as a commissioner with her reappointment in March 2021.

The Commission also extends grateful appreciation to the following individuals who contributed their time and talents to various committees throughout the year:

- Ms. Kathy Maitland
- Mr. Andy Soper
- Mr. Kristopher McNeil
- Ms. Margaret Talburtt
- Ms. Aleksandra Andjelkovic

The Commission thanks the following individuals from the Department of Attorney General for their work assisting the Commission:

- Ms. Aleksandra Andjelkovic
- Ms. Candace Black
- Ms. Michelle Brya-Project Manager (outgoing)
- Mr. David Cannon
- Ms. Veneshia Cezil
- Mr. Scott Damich
- Ms. Meagan Elve
- Ms. Harmony Glashower
- Ms. Danielle Hagaman-Clark- Project Manager (incoming)
- Ms. Karen Hall
- Mr. Peter Kotula
- Mr. Matthew Payok

Finally, a very special thank you to Michelle Brya and Candace Black who supported the Commission for the past seven years. The Commission is also pleased to welcome past contributor Aleksandra Andjelkovic to the staff of the Department of Attorney General. In her role of human trafficking victim advocate, Ms. Andjelkovic has been able to increase her involvement and assistance with the Commission's work.

"The Human Trafficking Commission has been energized by new commissioners with new ideas, enhanced organization (including through leveraging technologies), and continued support from community partners and the Department of Attorney General. It is an honor to serve with such knowledgeable and dedicated individuals as we make progress on several projects to shine a light on traffickers and assist survivors"

-- Forrest Pasanski, Vice-Chair, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs



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