2020

REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE

Michigan Human Trafficking Commission

Commission Members

- Ms. Kelly Carter, Commission Chair; Assistant Attorney General
- Chief Chad Baugh, Canton Township Police Department
- Mr. Hassan Beydoun, Michigan House of Representatives
- Ms. Debi Cain, Michigan Division of Victim Services; Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board
- Ms. Judy Emmons, Office of Senator Rick Outman; Emmons Farms
- Ms. Fadowa Harrel
- Mr. David Leyton, Genesee County Prosecutor
- Ms. Deb Monroe, Recovery Concepts of Michigan
- Ms. Shari Montgomery, The House of Promise
- Ms. Elizabeth Moon Carter, The Salvation Army
- Mr. Forrest Pasanski, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
- Det/Lt Edward Price, Michigan State Police
- Hon. Michelle Rick, 29th Judicial Circuit Court
- Ms. Suzanna Shkreli, Office of the Governor

Message from the Attorney General:
Dana Nessel

Dear Reader:

Given that 2020 was such an extraordinary year, the Michigan Human Trafficking Commission was remarkably productive. For most of the year, the entire world was engulfed in the Covid-19 pandemic. In early 2020, as most people were ordered to work from home, the Commission adapted and continued its important work. Just a few weeks in, and still unsure of the impact of the pandemic, the Commission's April meeting was rescheduled. Yet the Commission's work continued. The Commission met remotely via Zoom for the first time in June. With the assistance of Commission member Forrest Pasanski, the move to remote meetings was seamless. The cancelled April meeting was rescheduled for August and the new normal began to take shape, including holding remote meetings.

The Commission continues to be flexible during this difficult pandemic, making the necessary adjustments to stay safe, prevent the spread of the disease, and continue its significant work. Although the situation presents challenges, the Commission has adapted and persevered. Remote meetings seem to allow for increased involvement from Commission partners and continued public participation, along with a greater capacity to work toward accomplishing goals. While we all hope for the pandemic to end soon so we can resume some level of normalcy, perhaps an aspect of remote participation will remain, particularly if it provides additional opportunities for members of the public and other interest groups to participate.

The subcommittee reports which follow detail the specific work of each subcommittee along with a theme that has emerged across the board: In the absence of readily available data, unfortunate myths and misconceptions surrounding human trafficking develop and persist. Those with good intentions develop practices and theories that may actually be harmful to victims or fail to accurately depict the realities of human trafficking in our state. Several subcommittees recognized the need for the Commission to adopt guidelines and principles identifying and deploying the values we wish to emulate across disciplines, from training to public awareness to interactions with human trafficking survivors.

The Commission continues to support a human trafficking legislative package. I remain hopeful that the pandemic will ease in 2021, allowing for meaningful progress on the Commission's legislative recommendations.

Sincerely,

Dana Nessel

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.

Commission Meetings

The Michigan Human Trafficking Commission met on the following dates during 2020:

- January 14, 2020
- June 23, 2020
- August 11, 2020
- October 6, 2020

> "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

Subcommittee Overview

The Human Trafficking Commission operates with seven subcommittees:

Training and Education: This subcommittee 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.

Data Collection and Research: This subcommittee 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.

Victim Services: This subcommittee is charged with reviewing the needs of human trafficking survivors to determine how those needs can be met at the local and state levels.

Public Awareness: This subcommittee is charged with developing strategies to raise public awareness of human trafficking.

Policy and Legislation: This subcommittee is charged with reviewing Michigan's human trafficking laws and policies to determine whether new legislation or policy changes are required.

Courts/Summit: This subcommittee was established in October 2015. The subcommittee focuses on planning future conferences and working cooperatively with Michigan courts on human trafficking issues.

Funding and Resources: This subcommittee is charged with identifying and applying for potential grants and other forms of funding.

Training and Education

Subcommittee Members:

Ms. Kelly Carter, Human Trafficking Commission Chair; Assistant Attorney General
Chief Chad Baugh, Canton Township Police Department
Mr. Forrest Pasanski, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Det/Lt Edward Price, Michigan State Police
Hon. Michelle Rick, 29th Judicial Circuit Court

The Chair regularly receives requests to provide human trafficking training presentations to various professional groups. In 2020, the Commission Chair:

- Presented to a joint legislative subcommittee on the Commission's legislative recommendations;
- Provided training to a local bar association;
- Provided training through the Michigan Human Trafficking Taskforce Train the Trainer event;
- Provided training to prosecutorial victim advocates from across the state;
- Provided training to the Wayne County Medical Society; and
- Participated in a training for law enforcement, health professionals and others in southwest Michigan.

The Subcommittee also developed guidelines for human trafficking training. Recognizing a need to ensure that resources made available by the Commission meet certain standards, the Subcommittee began drafting guidelines to determine whether trainings provided by third parties should be included on the Commission's website. In cooperation with the Public Awareness Subcommittee, the Training and Education Subcommittee compiled a list of guidelines and made recommendations to the full Commission for adoption. In order for the Commission to recommend that a specific training be included on the Commission's website, it will consider the following factors:

- Is it victim centered and trauma informed?
- Does it acknowledge and define both sex trafficking and labor trafficking?
- Does it identify indicators of human trafficking?
- Does it accurately represent the state of trafficking and not advance myths or misconceptions about human trafficking?
- Does it present facts over opinion?
- Is it appropriately specific for the audience intended?
- Does it contain current information?
- Is it accessible without fee, except where a fee is appropriate, such as for continuing education credits?
- Does it identify how to report human trafficking incidents to the National Human Trafficking Hotline?
- Does it identify resources for survivors of human trafficking?

Following the Commission's adoption of the guidelines, the Subcommittee began reviewing the professional training materials. After the Subcommittee reviews materials, it will make recommendations to the full Commission.

The Training and Education Subcommittee also continues to partner with Measurable Change, a partnership between Michigan pioneer of human trafficking victim services, Andy Soper and Think Black, an integrated digital consulting, strategy, and production firm. The goal of the project is to build a "platform for delivering high-quality educational content that's tied to standardized data collection processes and systems in order to solve complex social issues." The Measurable Change project dovetails squarely with two areas of statutory obligation for the Commission: training and data collection.

Data Collection and Research

Subcommittee Members:

Ms. Elizabeth Moon Carter, The Salvation Army
Mr. Forrest Pasanski, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Chief Chad Baugh, Canton Township Police Department

The Data Collection and Research Subcommittee worked on two primary initiatives in 2020: (1) compiling and distributing the results from a meaningful survey for prosecutors regarding human trafficking prosecutions; and (2) reviewing data collected by service providers in Southeast Michigan.

At the December 2019 meeting, the survey for prosecutors was approved by the Commission. It was ready for distribution when the pandemic hit Michigan and forced a temporary stop to the Subcommittee's work. The survey was distributed to prosecutors throughout the state in March 2020. Due to a variety of factors, many surveys were returned partially complete, with only a few thoroughly completed. However, these responses gave the Subcommittee insight into prosecutions in some geographic locations.

Meanwhile, the Subcommittee also discussed how to best analyze and utilize data collected from service providers in Southeast Michigan who had provided services to 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 reporting. The Salvation Army is organizing the data so that it may be interpreted more easily and effectively. The Subcommittee will work to analyze the data and report all of the information to the Commission in 2021.

The Data Collection and Research and the Funding and Resources Subcommittees met in November 2020 to discuss overlapping goals. To further the development of resources for grant applicants, the subcommittees are working together to analyze existing data sources from past federal grants in the state. This information will help to determine the type of standardized data necessary for grant applicants to reference in their applications for funding.

Victim Services

Subcommittee Members:

Ms. Kelly Carter, Human Trafficking Commission Chair; Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Debi Cain, Michigan Division of Victim Services; Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board
Ms. Elizabeth Moon Carter, The Salvation Army
Ms. Judy Emmons, Office of Senator Rick Outman; Emmons Farms
Ms. Fadowa Harrel
Ms. Deborah Monroe, Recovery Concepts of Michigan
Ms. Shari Montgomery, The House of Promise

The Victim Services Subcommittee continued work during the year to develop a "Listening Tour" to learn directly from survivors how best to serve them. The Subcommittee also worked toward compiling a comprehensive inventory of services available across the state to survivors of human trafficking.

The listening tour will allow members of the Commission a chance to hear, confidentially, from survivors of trafficking. The goal of the tour is to let survivor voices fully inform our conversation on what services are available, what services are needed, and how the delivery of those services can be improved. The Subcommittee has identified an initial class of potential participants to begin the tour and will be providing all of the information and its recommendations to the Commission for its review.

The Subcommittee also received assistance from an organization at the University of Michigan called Community Technical Assistance Collaborative (CTAC), a community-university partnership that focuses on supporting nonprofits, schools, and governmental organizations to build capacity while meeting the educational goals of students. CTAC assisted in the development of the draft "script" for the victim listening sessions. Given the sensitive nature of the material, the Subcommittee believes that in-person meetings are required to produce meaningful survey results. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic prevents the deployment of the sessions until it is safe to gather in person. The Subcommittee is hopeful the in-person listening sessions will happen later in 2021.

In keeping with the theme of developing and deploying best practices, the Subcommittee 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 Subcommittees. However, the "Guiding Principles" includes an extensive framework for assessing an organizations compliance with specific principles as well as strategies for adopting and deploying those principles. The Subcommittee will make recommendations to the full Commission and hopes to convene a workgroup comprised of leading human trafficking service providers and stakeholders within the state to convert the existing framework into a document crafted specifically for Michigan providers. The Subcommittee anticipates the workgroup will meet over the first part of 2021 and aims to make recommendations to the full Commission by mid-2021, in the hopes of implementing Michigan's best practices for interacting with survivors of human trafficking.

Public Awareness

Subcommittee Members:

Ms. Judy Emmons, Office of Senator Rick Outman; Emmons Farms
Ms. Fadowa Harrel
Ms. Suzanna Shkreli, Office of the Governor
Mr. David Leyton, Genesee County Prosecutor

In January of 2020, the Commission collaborated with the Governor's Office on the issuance of a gubernatorial proclamation specifying January as Human Trafficking awareness month in the State of Michigan.

Throughout the year, the Public Awareness Subcommittee focused on developing a comprehensive Human Trafficking Awareness campaign via social media.

The Commission, working with the Department of Attorney General, updated and redesigned the Michigan Human Trafficking Commission website. The overhaul included a more user-friendly layout, with easy access to the Human Trafficking Commission Act, as well as information regarding Commission members, reports, training, and upcoming meeting dates.

The updated webpage also includes a new feature which provides general updates on human trafficking to keep the public informed. This was a continuation of a goal from last year to develop a social media public awareness campaign. Utilizing the "updates" section of the Commission website, information on human trafficking will be available to interested parties upon viewing the website directly or via subscription delivered by email or other social media platforms. These updates will 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.

As mentioned previously in this Report, the Subcommittee also worked with the Training and Education Subcommittee to prepare draft guidelines for posting human trafficking resources on the Commission's website.

Policy and Legislation

Subcommittee Members:

Ms. Kelly Carter, Human Trafficking Commission Chair; Assistant Attorney General
Mr. David Leyton, Prosecuting Attorney, Genesee County
Mr. Hassan Beydoun, Michigan House of Representatives
Hon. Michelle Rick, 29th Judicial Circuit Court
Det/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 subcategories: criminal justice, training, and funding. While the resulting package is 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's recommendations had been introduced as bills in the Michigan Legislature. Unfortunately, shortly thereafter, the Covid-19 pandemic took hold and consumed the legislative focus through the rest of this report period. The Commission continues to support the proposals and will work with the Legislature in the hopes that the bills will be reintroduced during the next legislative session. The package is detailed below.

The 2019-2020 Human Trafficking Legislative Package

Training:

The work regarding human trafficking training legislation focused on developing mandates for additional professionals to receive training. 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 professions to develop rules and procedures regarding the human trafficking training. The various boards developed consistent rules for what would satisfy the training mandate.

The effectiveness of the training mandate has been evident. Requests for training and presentations have increased dramatically. Moreover, reports to the National Human Trafficking hotline 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 human trafficking training. 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: 1) the mandate on the licensing side; and 2) the added Commission requirement to develop minimum standards for training.

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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 drivers, educators, educational-based counselors, and cosmetologists.

With regard to training standards, 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.

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 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. 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. If this legislation passes, 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 as a factor in continuing the presumption.

Expansion of Adult and Juvenile Human Trafficking 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 to the ways that survivors continue to suffer. Previously, the Commission had proposed bills allowing survivors 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 there are victims who are prevented relief because they were instead charged with loitering or disorderly person as a "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, Commission members repeatedly see victims who are forced by their traffickers to engage in other types of criminal activity including drug offenses, theft offenses, and gun offenses. In recognition of the realities of human trafficking victims there are two bills that seek to expand expungement for human trafficking victims under an adult approach as well as expand 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 committed by a victim of human trafficking who can establish that the commission of the crime was a direct result of that person being a victim of human trafficking.

Strengthening Tools to Hold Traffickers Accountable

Amend Expert Testimony for Human Trafficking Cases:

For years, caselaw in Michigan (and 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 assault, but there have been no cases in Michigan extending the same expert testimony to human trafficking cases. The same challenges exist in human trafficking cases as domestic violence and sexual assault cases.

Although a law was enacted in 2017 that sought to permit the introduction of expert witness testimony, that new provision only allows the expert testimony if it "is otherwise admissible under the rules of evidence and laws of this state." MCL 750.462g(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 whether a person meets the qualifications to provide expert testimony under these circumstances.

Expand Statutory Immunity for Compelled Testimony to Human Trafficking Chapter:

The prostitution chapter of the Criminal Code 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 may be unwilling to provide testimony about those controlling the prostitution for fear of exposing themselves to criminal liability. This is particularly true in human trafficking cases. Accordingly, the Commission is recommending that the prostitution immunity provision be added to the human trafficking chapter.

Include Human Trafficking in Propensity Evidence Expansion:

The previous 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" the Commission is recommending over a dozen proposals that fundamentally alter the landscape with regard to what should formally be known as prostitution. Starting from the realization that nowhere in Michigan law 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 workgroup 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 Criminal Code. Instead that term would be replaced with the term commercial sexual activity that is generally defined in the human trafficking chapter as 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 what has been historically known as the prostitution chapter of the Criminal Code. Those new 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

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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.

This proposal 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 proposal would decrease penalties for providers of commercial sexual activity to misdemeanors while conversely increasing to a felony the penalties for those who obtain commercial sexual activity. Additional changes to what is currently known as the prostitution chapter 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.

"I continue to be inspired and encouraged by the pace of progress the Commission has adopted. In spite of the challenges of this year, the Commission has made significant progress."

Kelly Carter

Michigan Human Trafficking Commission Chair

Funding and Resources Subcommittee

Subcommittee Members:

Ms. Kelly Carter, Human Trafficking Commission Chair; Assistant Attorney General
Mr. Hassan Beydoun, Michigan House of Representatives
Debbie Cain, Michigan Division of Victim Services; Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board
Ms. Suzanna Shkreli, Office of the Governor
Ms. Shari Montgomery, The House of Promise

The Funding & Resources Subcommittee continued its work to identify grant opportunities for all aspects of human trafficking including grants for victim services, training, public outreach, and data collection and research.

Having identified several Michigan victim services providers who successfully applied for federal grant funding, the Subcommittee invited them to share their process and experience. In listening to reports of their process to identify and procure funds, it became apparent to the Subcommittee that it would be extremely helpful to compile and distribute resources to those entities hoping to obtain funding.

To that end, the Subcommittee quickly identified a need for published resources to aid grant applicants including a fact sheet providing information about human trafficking in Michigan. The Subcommittee also identified the need to provide training to potential grant applicants. The Subcommittee began developing an outline for two separate half-day workshops to equip potential grantees with tools, resources and information to successfully apply for, and receive and administer grant funding. The Subcommittee will recommend that the Commission approve its participation in these workshops.

To further the development of resources for grant applicants, the Subcommittee is partnering with the Data Subcommittee in its project to analyze existing data sources from past federal grants in the state. While useful to the Data Subcommittee alone, this resource will be an important source of the type of standardized data necessary for grant applicants to reference in their applications.

The Subcommittee continues working to identify additional funding partners. The Subcommittee anticipates leveraging partnerships with academic institutions to provide funding to research projects. Likewise, the Subcommittee will continue to examine partnerships with foundations to provide funding for Commission initiatives.

Finally, the Subcommittee recommended to the full Commission sending a letter to the Michigan Legislature thanking them for their work in supporting efforts to combat human trafficking and support survivors. The full Commission approved that recommendation and the communication was transmitted in late summer 2020.

Conclusion

Thank you to all the Commission members for their work during a year that brought many challenges. A special thank you to outgoing member Judge Michelle Rick who has been a valuable member of the Commission for several years, including working on the Commission's summits. Judge Rick has been elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals which will render her unable to continue as a member of the Commission. Congratulations Judge Rick—we wish you continued success in your new role!

The Commission also thanks the following individuals who contributed their time and talents to various subcommittees throughout the year:

Ms. Kathy Maitland

Mr. Andy Soper

Mr. Kristopher McNeil

Ms. Margaret Talburtt

Ms. Aleksandra Andjelkovic

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

Ms. Michelle Brya-Project Manager

Ms. Candace Black

Mr. David Cannon

Ms. Venesha Cezil

Mr. Scott Damich

Ms. Harmony Glashower

Ms. Danielle Hagaman-Clark

Mr. Peter Kotula

Mr. Matthew Payok

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