



**HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS
HUMAN TRAFFICKING STANDING COMMITTEE**

Virtual Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2022, 5:00 pm -6:00 pm

I. Call to Order: 5:01pm

As we gather today, we acknowledge that Eureka, California is ancestral territory of the Wiyot people. We also honor all Indigenous people and territories and Sovereign governments that share governance within Humboldt County, California. We gather with respect and gratitude to these Indigenous People.

We thank and honor the Indigenous Caretakers of this land who continue to cherish and protect it. Their elders have instructed the young to consider the seven generations ahead as they continue to protect the rights of the land and all people who live on it.

We encourage all to align and follow the lead of local Indigenous communities as they steward the land and protect all of its natural resources.

One minute of silence

II. Roll Call:

Present: Lochtie, Glover, Morgan

Excused absence: none

Unexcused absence: Sundberg

III. Guest Speakers:

Tina Taylor gave some background information relevant to the history of the Human Trafficking Fund. She highlighted the key areas in which the fund had assisted in the local community. Those areas included:

- Establishing a data bank with resources available to assist victims and those attempting to assist victims.

- Development of a webpage, still in progress. Thus far it is considered successful, but could use additional effort.
- Awareness campaign, which includes bus advertising on Humboldt Transit buses. Also, laminated flyers which are distributed throughout the area, particularly at hotels that victims or traffickers might frequent.
- Established a telephone hotline. It has been especially active recently with victim calls and in the past with calls for people willing to assist.
- News coverage has been gratifying, Tina noted that on the day of this meeting there was a significant article on the subject in the Times-Standard.
- Training opportunities have been developed for those wishing to assist in helping victims, on the phone, by email, or in person.

IV. Discussion: A general discussion ensued and we considered the status of issue. Tina believes the hardships of the pandemic have only aggravated the situation. She noted monitoring of social media ads had previously averaged 10-20 ads by victims per month. Now that average is 30-40 per month.

Also discussed was possible next steps. Tina noted the instability of available beds for victims and how they either must exit their safe place during the day due to providers needing to leave or Tina was left housing them. Worse yet, victims sometimes needed to be housed out of area. Suggestions for how the Commission can proceed to be provided by Tina in the near future and presented as part of a budget item for the Board of Supervisors to consider. Some of those suggestions include:

- Possible stipend position to an individual who might assist or relieve current people like Tina from being continuously on call.
- Regular payment for the phone hotline. Currently Tina is paying this herself.
- Providing some sort of bedding for victims.
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Jim pointed out there are still remaining funds and the possibility of asking for additional funds. It was suggested Tina work with Eddie to create a fund wishlist so it can be considered as part of the County fiscal year budget. Eddie suggested this should be a brief, less than a page presentation which the Commission could craft into a budget proposal to the BOS. Byrd noted we should focus on ongoing expenses so the BOS understands the method we hope to disburse the funds. Eddie suggested a more organized payment method using HAF for those payments.

Finally, visitor Datso Perkins asked about the flyers mentioned earlier. Tina is to get together with Datso so these can be distributed in SoHum.

V. Adjournment: 5:40pm

