



NC Human Trafficking Commission: General Meeting
Thursday, August 22, 2024, 10:19 AM – 11:19 AM
WebEx through the NC Judicial Center / Hickory Board Room (A-1-101)

10:19 AM – Call to Order & Roll Call Attendance

Maggie Brewer

Chair Brewer opened the meeting and called to order. Chair Brewer then conducted a verbal roll call to document attendance. Commissioners in attendance at the meeting were Caitlin Brooks (joined 10:03 am, left 11:10 am), Maggie Brewer, Judge Wilson (left 11:01 am), Jennifer Haigwood, Judge Hill, Deana Joy (joined 10:02 am), Kindl Detar, Dr. Myers, Marc Nichols (joined 10:18 am), Caitlin Ryland, Lt. Reese, DA Billy West (joined 10:09 am), and Angelica Wind (left 11:09 am). Also in attendance were Commission Executive Director, Christine Long, Grants Administrator, James Melvin, Grant Managers, Kristen Howe, Hampton White and Marcus Melvin, Data Manager, Ashawntee Cabello, Court Management Specialist, Ashley Tauscher, and Administrative Secretary, Lauren Amato. Members of the public were also able to view or listen to the meeting via WebEx.

10:23 AM – Ethics Reminder
Ethics Evaluations

Maggie Brewer

Chair Brewer reminded members of the ethics statement and duties on their agenda. New evaluations for some members were sent by the NC Ethics Commission. Since those did not note any conflict found, they do not need read into the minutes. Chair Brewer then announced Angelica Wind will be resigning her commissioner position effective September 30, 2024. The Commission is extremely thankful for her hard work and dedication.

10:29 AM – Approval of the Minutes: 4/25/2024

Maggie Brewer

[\(See final meeting minutes April 25, 2024\)](#)

Chair Brewer thanked all in attendance and asked if there were changes to the minutes from the April 25th, 2024, meeting. No changes were noted. DA Billy West made a motion to approve the minutes and Jennifer Haigwood seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

10:30 AM – Committee Reports and Action Items

Maggie Brewer

Legislative Committee

Christine Long

[\(See legislative report\)](#)

Christine Long provided legislative updates. House Bill 259 passed in 2023 and the part of the bill directed at the Commission is recurring grant funding to give out as small grants each year. Funds the initial year weren't issued due to some problematic language within the bill and unfortunately, the technical corrections weren't taken up in the last session. Ideally, the grants would change from 1 year to 2 years to be easier to manage. We are starting the Request for Proposals process now.

Session Law H971v7 passed in 2024 and is a partnership between the HTC and Department of Labor to develop lodging establishments awareness training. Jennifer Haigwood talked about the history of the bill and requirements. The HTC and DOL have been working together to come up with a list of acceptable training options for employers to provide to their employees. DOL will create a website or webpage on their website with the training options by the effective date of July 1, 2025.

House Bill 591 passed in 2024 as well and came through the Department of Justice. The HTC has wanted to do more with extortion related cases, and this bill addresses sextortion specifically. Kindl Detar explained how the bill was designed to do several things to modernize our sex crime law in NC to address emerging threats from technology and AI specifically. The goal was to make sure that prosecutors and law enforcement have all the tools they need to help meet these emerging needs. Caitlin Brooks inquired whether other states were enacting similar legislation.

Public Health Committee

Dr. Corrina Myers

Dr. Myers briefly recapped the initial planning meeting for the public health committee and provided other updates. The discussion included revitalizing our education with medical professionals with human trafficking. The plan is to build off slide decks and trainings already developed for health care workers then use the revamped materials to train various programs across the state starting with family medicine, emergency medicine, and pediatric residency programs so that we're training our doctors how to recognize human trafficking within the clinical setting. The hope was to utilize community members and people who were interested in assisting Dr. Myers with engaging these stakeholders and delivering the educational trainings. Dr. Myers, Christine, and Chair Brewer are still identifying those people and ensuring we have the most up to date information. Dr. Myers invited anyone within the commission or on the meeting to get in touch with her to assist with this if interested. She is also due in January!

Appropriations Committee

HTC Staff

[\(See appropriations report\)](#)

Christine Long began the report to provide various updates on the committee. HTC staff have engaged with a company called Submittable to design and build our grants management system. The grant team has also had some staffing changes including a new Grants Administrator, James Melvin, an addition of three temps through Temp Solutions, and a third grants manager for the domestic violence / sexual assault grants. Procedural changes include updates to our report review process, streamlining systems and discontinuing the use of shared spreadsheets, and the change over to a new financial system.

Section 16.20 – There were 17 grantees that applied for this funding and have been through all four quarters now. Two of the agencies will close their projects in 2024. The administrative funds are being reevaluated for this position; the position will likely need to be through temp solutions due to funding limitations. Additional funding may be requested to help monitor the grantees through the life cycles and closing of their grants. Lastly, a report is due to the General Assembly on September 1.

Section 16.21 – Round 1 issued 11 grant contracts in early 2024; those 11 agencies have all had two quarters in their grants. There was a little over \$1.8 million to issue out in a second round; the committee met the week prior and awarded the remaining money out. Agencies have been notified of Round 2 grant award results by their 16.21 Grants Manager, Hampton White, and those not awarded can request a consultation. We are working to get items for the contract in place including the updated budget, any adjustments or corrections, the grant agreement, etc. There are a few steps that must be taken before the disbursement list of first quarterly payments can be sent to finance.

Section 16.22 – There were 72 of these grants with no administrative funds given to manage these contracts. A small portion of these contracts ended on June 30, 2023, and the rest of the grant contracts expired June 30, 2024. Christine and Lauren working to close these out. One agency filed bankruptcy and we

are working closely with another agency that is at risk.

Section 16.23 – There are 142 contracts in this section of funding with funding retroactive to 2021. Almost all agencies extended their contracts through June 30, 2025. Grants managers and staff are reviewing reports. There was around \$800k not obligated that we wanted moved to the human trafficking section, but ultimately the legislature removed it from our budget and did not reappropriate to the human trafficking commission.

Public Safety Committee

Marc Nichols

Marc Nichols handed over the report to First sergeant Chad Lloyd with the State Highway Patrol. First Sgt. Lloyd spoke briefly about their work over the past few months. IPC trainers Sgt. Nales and Trooper Allen attended the 36th annual Crimes Against Children Conference in Dallas, Texas. This is the second year in a row the SHP has sent IPC members. IPC students continue to conduct traffic stops; 10 children have been located since the implementation of the IPC training in North Carolina. IPC trainers have conducted courses in Smithfield, Lumberton, and there's an upcoming course in Henderson in September. Future IPC courses are being planned to include Western NC, Cherokee, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and Tribal ABC. The SHP will be sending two troopers to Texas in October to receive the train the trainer courses by Texas DPS troopers. Marc Nichols touched on a meeting he and Ashley Tauscher attended recently with the Department of Homeland Security and TSA. The goals from the meeting were to try to make some initial efforts to get signage and increased awareness throughout the airports and to develop and implement trainings for airport staff.

11:09 AM – General Staff Report

Christine Long

[\(See staff report\)](#)

Christine Long gave a brief general staff report. There were a handful of training and events conducted by Ashley Tauscher since our last meeting. The list can be found in the link above. There are three trainings and events coming up in August and September. We've contracted with Shield NC to assist in updating our Resource Directory. The Department of Public Instruction contracted with UNC to create sex trafficking prevention modules for teachers and school administrators. Deana Joy provided expertise and assisted in the reviewal process. We partnered with Guardian Ad Litem to apply for an Office for Victims of Crime grant. We have been working to solidify our Governor's Crime Commission grant as well. The public records request is on-going.

11:14 AM – Public Comment

Maggie Brewer

Commission Chair Brewer opened the floor for public comment. Pam Strickland with NC Stop Human Trafficking spoke about a few topics including legislative updates, law enforcement trainings, and the revamp of NCCAHT.

11:19 AM – Adjournment

Maggie Brewer

Jennifer Haigwood moved to adjourn the meeting and Caitlin Ryland seconded the motion. Commission Chair Brewer adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is Thursday, October 24th, 2024.