

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



**BILL SCHUETTE**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

**Meeting  
of the  
Michigan Human Trafficking Commission**

**January 20, 2016  
Williams Building  
Lansing, Michigan**

**Called to order:** 11:40 a.m.

**Members present:**

Carol Isaacs, Chairwoman  
Valerie Bass  
Beth Emmitt  
Elizabeth Hertel  
David Leyton  
Kathy Maitland  
Deborah Monroe  
Cheryl Pezon  
Edward Price  
Michelle Rick  
Tom Tiderington  
Herbert Smitherman, Jr. (via telephone)

Quorum is present.

**Agenda item:**

Welcome and Introductions. Chairwoman Carol Isaacs welcomes the Commission members and the public.

**Agenda item:**

Approval of Commission Minutes from October 13, 2015. Chairwoman Carol Isaacs called for a motion to approve minutes for the October 13, 2015 meeting as submitted. Edward Price moved for the motion. David Leyton seconded the motion. Hand vote was unanimous.

**Agenda item:**

Guest Speakers:

- Amy Ruppeck, Director of Compliance, Western Union, spoke to the Commission on Western Union's efforts with the Blue Campaign, an anti-human trafficking initiative involving the United States Department of Homeland Security.
- Dr. Eric Roath, Director of Professional Practice for the Michigan Pharmacists Association spoke to the Commission on the Association's work with health professionals and the public on human trafficking issues.

**Agenda item:**

Health Video Update – Dr. Herbert Smitherman. Due to a conflict in Dr. Smitherman's schedule, an update on the health video was not presented to the Commission.

**Agenda item:**

Subcommittee Reports:

- Data Collection & Research – presented by Assistant Attorney General John Pallas. The subcommittee has been discussing a pilot project to collect human trafficking information. The project will work in cooperation with three law agencies. The subcommittee expects to bring a pilot project proposal to the next Commission meeting.
- Funding & Resources – presented by Assistant Attorney General Molly Jason. The subcommittee has been discussing different sources of funding including federal government grants. The subcommittee has identified a grant from the National Institute of Justice. Chairwoman Isaacs has asked for funding from the State Budget Office and will also ask to partner with individual corporations to provide funds to the Commission.
- Policy & Legislation – presented by Assistant Attorney General Kelly Carter. Ms. Carter asked the Commissioners to refer to the handout (memo dated January 20, 2016). The subcommittee proposed three legislative initiatives for immediate consideration regarding expungement of victims' criminal records, increasing penalties for sex trafficking, and a tool for prosecutors to bring traffickers to justice. A

motion was made to have the Commission accept the legislative initiatives and to move forward with sponsorship and bill drafting. David Leyton moved for the motion. Cheryl Pezon seconded the motion. Hand vote was unanimous.

- Public Awareness – presented by Attorney General’s Director of Communications Andrea Bitely. The subcommittee has been discussing the development of a communications website for the public to use. The website will be maintained by the Commission and DTMB. Commission members were asked to send items to the subcommittee to be used on the website. Chairwoman Isaacs asked about an “800” number on the website. The subcommittee also discussed a possible Public Service Announcement (PSA).
- Training & Education – presented by AAG Kelly Carter and Tom Tiderington. The subcommittee will work on the website with the Public Awareness Subcommittee. The members will look into a “portal” for training with (1) law enforcement members; (2) MCOLES on a curriculum; and (3) health professionals including Wayne County Medical Society. The subcommittee will get cost estimates to present to the Commission.
- Victim Services – presented by Kathy Maitland. The subcommittee has reviewed the Strategic Action Plan. They will be working on ways to catalog human trafficking in Michigan. The subcommittee will be (1) coordinating with Eastern Michigan University to work on their registry; (2) looking into service providers and provide a list in our state; (3) look at entry points for the youth (runaway and homeless shelters).

**Agenda item:**

Update on Human Trafficking Conference. Michelle Rick gave an update on the Human Trafficking Conference to be held on September 29, 2016. Judge Rick is looking into venues and hopes to partner with Department of Health and Human Services and the State Court Administrator’s Office. The Commission will also contact the Michigan Judicial Institute to ask for resources for the conference. Judge Rick asked the Commission for \$15,000 to dedicate to the conference. Chairwoman Isaacs indicated that the money is available. David Leyton moved to request the money. Tom Tiderington seconded the motion. Hand vote was unanimous.

**Agenda item:**

Adopt 2016 Meeting Dates. Chairwoman Isaacs called for a motion to approve the 2016 meeting dates of the Commission (April 26, 2016, July 27, 2016, November 2, 2016). Cheryl Pezon moved for the motion. Michelle Rick seconded the motion. Hand vote was unanimous.

**Public Comment:** No public comments were made during this meeting.

**Next Meeting:** April 26, 2016

**Adjournment:** Chairwoman Carol Isaacs called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Tiderington moved for the motion. Deborah Monroe seconded the motion. Hand vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.