

FIRST INTERIM REPORT¹
Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force
(NHTTF)
May 11, 2016

To: Hon. Douglas J. Peterson
Attorney General, State of Nebraska

From: Stephen Patrick O'Meara
Coordinator, Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force

CAVEAT

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The recommendations made herein, while intended in great part to reflect the recommendations of participants in the Work Group and Committee process, do not necessarily reflect the recommendations of any particular person or entity involved in this process, other than the author.

The language used herein is that of the author, and does not necessarily reflect language which would be employed by all persons affiliated with NHTTF. This language reflects the author's background, which is in significant part law enforcement oriented. Use of language appropriate to being victim/survivor-oriented is a concern of NHTTF. At all times, the intent of the author is

¹ The substantial assistance of the many people on the NHTTF Work Group and Committees in the progress reflected in this First Interim Report is gratefully acknowledged. The particular assistance of Alicia Webber, Program Manager for The Salvation Army's Fight to End Trafficking (SAFE-T) Program, and Co-Coordinator (Services) under the OVC-BJA Human Trafficking Grant, and Meghan Malik, M.P.A., Trafficking Response Coordinator for the Women's Fund of Omaha, is particularly acknowledged and appreciated. Although this report is written in an effort to be consistent with the consensus achieved on the Work Group and Committees, these acknowledgements do not necessarily constitute endorsement of the contents of the First Interim Report by the persons or entities acknowledged.

to be respectful of victims and survivors of human trafficking and of all of the people engaged in the establishment of the NHTTF.

REPORT

1. Introduction

The Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force (NHTTF) was commissioned by Attorney General Douglas J. Peterson at a public ceremony, on October 20, 2015. As stated in the original “Report & Recommendations,” this was a “best beginnings” initiation of NHTTF, understanding that it would take time to develop the approach being advocated by NHTTF.

a. OVC-BJA Grant

The project to establish NHTTF is supported by Grant No. 2015-VT-BX-K041, awarded by the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), and a companion grant from USDOJ’s Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) (jointly referred to as “the Grant.”). BJA and OVC are components of USDOJ’s Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the SMART Office. These BJA and OVC grants were awarded to the Attorney General (BJA grant) and The Salvation Army (OVC grant) on or about September 24, 2015. The Attorney General accepted the BJA grant on or about October 8, 2015. However, funding under the grant was not available to the Attorney General until in or about February of 2016, contributing to delay in implementation of certain facets of NHTTF.

b. NHTTF Principles, Goals, and Presumptions

NHTTF is being established under **8 Principles**, agreed to by the original Services Work Group and the original Enforcement Work Group, the first of which Principles is:

Human trafficking, which is modern-day slavery in violation of the Constitution of the United States of America, is an abomination, and must be substantively addressed in Nebraska.

The eight Principles are set forth in Part 3 of the Report & Recommendations to Establish the NHTTF, adopted by the Attorney General on October 20, 2016, and available on the Attorney General’s web site.

NHTTF has **3 Goals**:

- HELP victims and survivors of human trafficking;
- STOP human traffickers;
- ELIMINATE the human trafficking market.²

² The third Goal has been amended to, “ELIMINATE the human trafficking market,” from its original language of “Reduce the human trafficking market.”

NHTTF operates and trains under **7 Presumptions:**³

- 1) Responding to human trafficking is a PROCESS, usually requiring a victim-centered, integrated, balanced, continuing, informed, and dedicated, multi-disciplinary effort.
- 2) We should *presume* that a person is a victim, if an [appropriate] human trafficking “screening” reasonably indicates that the person is -- under 18 years of age, or subject to force, fraud, or coercion, including certain vulnerabilities.
- 3) Responding well to human trafficking usually requires establishing a *GENUINE TRUST RELATIONSHIP* with the victim/survivor, and between responders.
- 4) If we stop a trafficker, but do not help the victim, we probably allow that victim to continue to be victimized!
- 5) If we help the victim, but do not stop the trafficker, we probably allow victimization of another person!
- 6) We must go after human traffickers as human traffickers [with an appropriately high penalty for human trafficking, and seeking the highest, most readily provable offense available in any particular case].
- 7) Having no buyers for the results of the labor or services of human trafficking, especially including commercial sex acts, would result in having no human trafficking. [Human trafficking is a market-driven offense.]

NHTTF seeks Awareness, Intervention, and Prevention, regarding Victims/Survivors, Human Traffickers, and Buyers⁴. NHTTF promotes “A Community Caretaking Response,” under an “Enhanced Collaborative Model.”⁵ NHTTF seeks to be “Integrated, Balanced, and Proactive.” NHTTF promotes every person to “Realize, Recognize, and Respond,” regarding human trafficking, according to the person’s role in the community.

NHTTF is organizing on the basis of Enforcement, Victim/Survivor Services, and Community Partners. Community Partners could include anyone, but concentrates on the health care system, the hospitality industry (e.g., motels-hotels), education (e.g., educating parents, training staff, and seeking curriculum development for students), the transportation industry, the gambling industry (e.g., casinos – especially on Native American reservations and in neighboring states, including in metropolitan areas which contain Nebraska municipalities, such as Council Bluffs and Sioux City, Iowa), agriculture and associated industry, and faith communities.

As detailed in the original “Report & Recommendations, NHTTF is organizing on three levels: state response, regional response, local response where feasible. Regarding substantive operations, among other things, NHTTF promotes: “integrated victim/survivor advocacy;”

³ These 7 Presumptions were unanimously adopted by the reconstituted single Work Group in or about March of 2016.

⁴ Buyers may *expressly* be traffickers under federal statute, but are not *expressly* so included under Nebraska statute.

⁵ The latter, as required by the USDOJ, OVC-BJA Human Trafficking Grants, referenced above.

forensic nurse involvement; enhanced mental health and substance abuse services; enhanced victim funding; and “enhancement of reporting and data.”

2. Call to Move Forward.

On May 5-6, 2016, designated people serving with NHTTF attended a mandatory Federal Grant meeting in Seattle, Washington. As a result of this meeting and other experiences in building NHTTF over the past several months, including the unanticipated change in schedule for implementing NHTTF training, it is recommended that, without abandoning the current, important focus of NHTTF, NHTTF should move rapidly toward operational status⁶ by emphasizing the following. In stating these objectives, it is recommended that August of 2016, rather than June, is the pivotal month in NHTTF formation.

- By July 1, 2016, conclude Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with OVC-BJA Human Trafficking Grant Advisory Group (Grant Advisory Group) members, including substantial progress toward entering into MOUs with Native American tribes.
 - As a first step toward this objective, on or about May 11, 2016, draft MOU should be offered to prospective Grant Advisory Group members.
- By July 1, 2016, have taken substantial steps to conclude MOUs with prospective NHTTF state and regional operational response team members. While not exclusively so, initial focus has been on the Omaha Metro. While maintaining focus on the Omaha Metro, focus on areas across Nebraska outside of the Omaha Metro should immediately be accelerated.
 - On or about March 29, 2016, Amber Schlote,⁷ the Human Trafficking Investigator hired by the Attorney General, entered on duty. (This hiring was delayed because of a delay in the availability of Federal Grant funding from October of 2015, into February of 2016.)
 - On or about April 21, 2016, the Attorney General electronically transmitted a letter regarding NHTTF to all county attorneys, sheriff's and chiefs of police in Nebraska, requesting them to designate a human trafficking enforcement point of contact in each agency in which such designation is feasible, and to join in the mission of NHTTF. As a part of the process suggested below,

⁶ As NHTTF has been moving to achieve operational capability, NHTTF has consulted with various federal and state government entities and private service providers or advocates, in and out of Nebraska, regarding potential human trafficking cases or shelter or services for victims/survivors. These potential cases have all ended up being handled by other entities, especially the Omaha Child Exploitation Task Force, or determined not to be potential human trafficking cases.

⁷ Amber Schlote is a former Omaha Police Officer and federally deputized member of the Omaha Child Exploitation Task Force, with experience in forensic interviewing and investigation of sex trafficking offenses and serious crimes against children.

follow up on the responses to this letter should be continued by the NHTTF Coordinator in May and June.

- As a result of meetings between the NHTTF Coordinator and the Women's Fund of Omaha Human Trafficking Training Contract Consultant, and U. S. Citizenship and Immigration (USCIS), USCIS is, in late May of 2016, placing a volunteer leadership intern with the Attorney General's Office for six weeks, especially to work on establishing standard operating procedures for USCIS to integrate with local human trafficking task forces, beginning with NHTTF.
- As the administrator of the services component of the Grant, The Salvation Army has designated its Services Coordinator (Grant Co-Coordinator), and has also hired people to fill two of three regional services coordinator positions across Nebraska. The filling of the third position is in process.
- As a substantial step toward the above objective, at a meeting of law enforcement agencies serving an area in and about Omaha, scheduled to be held on or about May 16, 2016, an NHTTF MOU should be offered to agencies in jurisdictions which agree to jointly engage in proactive enforcement operations to identify and rescue/recover victims/survivors of human trafficking, and to target human traffickers, buyers, and businesses which knowingly or with reckless disregard facilitate and benefit from the operation of human trafficking ventures, for prosecution with the most serious, readily provable criminal offense applicable.
- As further steps under this objective, immediately following the May 16 meeting, in-person contacts should be scheduled and made with law enforcement and prosecution in the designated or amended NHTTF regions throughout the state. While this process has been initiated, it should be significantly accelerated, with "first-tier" contacts made and an NHTTF MOU offered by August of 2016.
- By August of 2016, NHTTF should conclude initial standard operating procedures (SOPs) for investigation and referral to services, including availability of urgently needed shelter and treatment for victims/survivors (especially at first contact); implementation of safety plans for victims/survivors (including remote placement as needed and agreed); and the ability to return Nebraska adult victims/survivors, as requested by said victims/survivors, to Nebraska, with appropriate shelter, support and services.⁸
- While seeking to maintain, build or enhance appropriate liaison with federal investigative agencies and prosecution, including true partnership where available,

⁸ A system for returning minor children missing from care out of state is already in place. Recent experience has shown that a systematic response capability to return adult victims/survivors to the state needs to be developed.

NHTTF should immediately move to establish an independent NHTTF operating capability composed of state and local entities, including “deconfliction” capability as needed. It is recognized that federal investigation and prosecution is in substantial part instrumental to accomplishing the goals of NHTTF. However, NHTTF must also, in many cases, be capable of operating independently of significant federal involvement.

- Federal partners are instrumental in general, but especially regarding enforcement involving “Indian lands.”
- It was strongly emphasized by federal authorities at the May 5-6 Grant meeting that state and local Grant partners should start planning now to sustain the task forces without federal grant funding beyond the original three years of the Grant, and that even current Grant funding is year-to-year depending on Congressional and Presidential action.

3. OVC-BJA Human Trafficking Grant Advisory Group

On May 11, 2016, following the plenary “all committees meeting” of NHTTF, individuals and entities invited to serve on the OVC-BJA Human Trafficking Grant Advisory Group (Advisory Group”) will meet to receive the invitation of the Attorney General and The Salvation Army to serve on the “Advisory Group.”

- Invitations to this meeting have been extended to the Colonel in charge of the Nebraska State Patrol, the CEO of the Nebraska DHHS, the United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska, the Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Omaha Office, the Lancaster County Attorney, the Douglas County Sheriff, the La Vista Chief of Police, the Executive Director of the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, the Director of the Nebraska Latino American Commission, and the Executive Director of the Women’s Fund of Omaha. When available, the “Advisory Group” will, under the Grant, also include representatives of Native American Tribes and/or the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and possibly one or more additional federal law enforcement agencies.
- The “Advisory Group” will meet at least quarterly to receive information from the Coordinators and Work Group regarding the policies and operation of NHTTF, and, in turn, will advise the Attorney General and The Salvation Army regarding implementation of the “Enhanced Collaborative Model” described under the Grant, especially regarding the integration of local, state and federal efforts for law enforcement and services regarding human trafficking, and, thereunder, especially regarding proactive operations to identify cases for federal prosecution and concomitant victim/survivor services; and otherwise consistent with the Grant.⁹

⁹ The original “Report & Recommendations” identified two alternative proposals for formation of the enforcement operational components of NHTTF. One had the FBI-led Omaha Child

4. NHTTF administrative reorganization.

- Work Group

On or about March 8, 2016, NHTTF undertook administrative reorganization for efficiency and to increase the speed of administrative decision-making regarding recommendations to the NHTTF Coordinators. This reorganization involved reducing the three Work Groups identified in the original “Report & Recommendations,” to a single Work Group supported by a number of committees.

- The Work Group reports to the NHTTF Coordinator (AG Office) and, under the Grant, also to the Co-Coordinator (The Salvation Army).
- The Work Group meets at least monthly, and has been meeting approximately every two weeks since March of 2016.
- The Work Group reviews the progress of NHTTF, establishes and oversees, subject to the approval of the Attorney General and, under the Grant, also The Salvation Army, Committees of NHTTF, and relates, through the Coordinators, to the Attorney General, The Salvation Army, and “the Advisory Group” (described below).
- The Work Group currently consists of: The Coordinator and Co-Coordinator, the Major in charge of Investigations for the Nebraska State Patrol (or, as a designated alternative, a designated Captain), the Director of the Nebraska Crime Commission, the Women’s Fund of Omaha Trafficking Response Coordinator, a designated Nebraska DHHS representative (familiar with youth policies and protocols), a designated representative of the Court Improvement Project (Administrative Office of the Courts), a representative of Juvenile Probation (when available), the Executive Director of the Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers, the Legal Director for the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, and a representative of the FBI (not available for some time). Additional membership, up to 15 members, is reserved for the Work Group.

- Services Committee/Enforcement Committee.

Effective with the institution of the single Work Group, the Services Work Group and the Enforcement Work Group were maintained as committees under the Work Group, with their respective memberships in effect at the time. This was done due to the importance of continuing substantial input from the members of each group, and continuing the state-wide geographic representation on the Enforcement Committee, including local, state and federal membership.

Exploitation Task Force (OCETF) assisting directly in leading NHTTF. The other had the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) in that role. Following meetings with FBI and NSP, and at the election of both FBI and NSP, the “NSP model” is being implemented.

These groups/committees were meeting approximately twice per month, and are anticipated to meet quarterly or otherwise as needed.

- Committees.

- Reorganization of committees.

- In an effort to make committees more efficient, the Work Group is reorganizing committees by providing each committee with written directions, including an identified mission statement specific to that committee and requiring the identification of a chairperson.
- Each committee shall have at least one Work Group member on the committee.

- Established committees.

- Services Committee and Enforcement Committee: described above
- Training Committee: The Training Committee has been meeting approximately every two weeks since its inception in 2015.
 - In conjunction with Braking Traffik (Quad Cities of Iowa and Illinois), the Iowa Department of Human Services and a number of NGO sponsors, (i.e., not under the Grant), and involving the Iowa Department of Public Safety and the Iowa Attorney General's Office,¹⁰ and Massachusetts General Hospital, the Training Committee prepared, and on February 18-19, 2016, presented a day and a half of two day training to 350-400 persons involved regionally in Iowa and Illinois with enforcement, services and advocacy regarding human trafficking. This presented a significant opportunity to plan, prepare, and present two days of training which would form the basis of the training NHTTF anticipates (pending approval under the Grant) to present six or seven times in Nebraska in furtherance of formation of NHTTF state and regional operational response teams.

¹⁰ NHTTF has found that working closely with entities in Iowa is important because of the common I-80 corridor running through both states, the I-29 corridor running through Iowa immediately attendant to Nebraska, and the impact of Sioux City and Council Bluffs, Iowa, on human trafficking in Nebraska (and vice-versa, and especially noting casinos in Iowa). The NHTTF Coordinator continues to enhance his background regarding the anti-human trafficking effort in significant part by continued association with anti-human trafficking entities in Iowa. Some of these entities also relate to Native American populations in Nebraska. Ultimately, the same approach is anticipated regarding other states attendant to or near to Nebraska. The NHTTF Coordinator maintains a working relationship with the Iowa Attorney General's Office and the Iowa Department of Public Safety, as well as some non-profit organizations in Iowa, and has participated in a meeting of law enforcement and some service providers and advocates from Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota, held in Sioux City, Iowa.

- Through significant effort, the Training Committee developed, and on or about April 22, 2016, sent to the Grant administration for approval, the outline and contents of two-day intensive training for anticipated NHTTF operational components, including especially enforcement, services, advocates, and community partners (especially health care). Subsequent to submission of the training materials, NHTTF has learned that review of this proposed training will take approximately 90 days and that forms not previously understood to be part of the proposed training submission must be submitted. Therefore, the training has been postponed from late May, through early July, to September or October of 2016.
- In addition to the Quad Cities training referred to above, NHTTF has given non-Grant presentations and trainings. These have included sponsorship by various government entities (including FBI/OCETF), the Women’s Fund of Omaha, the Coalition On Human Trafficking, and others. These have included, among others: Through the Eyes of the Child, Court Improvement Project presentations (Omaha, Hastings, O’Neil and Kimball, NE); The FBI National Academy (Kearney, NE); the National Court Reporters Association (meeting in Des Moines, IA); the Nebraska Court Reporters Association (Lincoln, NE); the University of Nebraska School of Law; the Creighton University School of Law; Des Moines University (College of Osteopathic Medicine, Des Moines, IA); One World (Christian Medical Dental Association health care mission – Omaha, NE); the U. S. Southern District of Iowa Federal Court, Federal Bar Association training (Davenport & Des Moines, IA); Fremont, NE (first responders and health care, through the Coalition On Human Trafficking); the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (“hometown housing” – Omaha, NE, through the Women’s Fund of Omaha); the Douglas County Board of Commissioners (Omaha, NE); and Phoenix House (Catholic Charities shelter, Council Bluffs, IA, through the FBI/OCETF).
- To handle the increasing volume of requests for human trafficking presentations being received by the Attorney General’s Office, the Women’s Fund of Omaha, and The

Salvation Army,¹¹ the Training Committee is establishing a “Speakers Bureau.” To facilitate handling the volume of requests, a centralized NHTTF speaking schedule is being established with The Salvation Army. In order to represent NHTTF, a person must be vetted and approved by the Work Group (and ultimately, as required, by the Attorney General and The Salvation Army), be trained in making NHTTF presentations, and use approved NHTTF presentation materials. Currently approved NHTTF speakers include: Stephen Patrick O’Meara (AGO), Amber Schlote (AGO), Alicia Webber (The Salvation Army), Meghan Malik (Women’s Fund of Omaha), Anna Brewer (Contract Training Consultant with Women’s Fund of Omaha), Anne Boatwright (Methodist Hospital System, Omaha, Forensic Nurse working with NHTTF and OCETF), Weysan Dun (SAC FBI (Ret.)), and Kathy Thomsen, (FBI – apparently inactive as NHTTF speaker).

- Any presentation to be made by NHTTF under the Grant (as compared to the more comprehensive NHTTF 2-day training conference, referenced above, or presentations not under the Grant), must be submitted to the Grant administration for review and approval 30 working days in advance of the proposed presentation.
- Special Youth Issues Committee. NHTTF has identified as a key issue facing Nebraska, “What should we do regarding minor children missing from care?” A committee has been formed and met once to analyze and report regarding this issue. The committee needs to be reconvened, given further particular direction, and move forward. See above, regarding reorganization of committees.
 - Members of this NHTTF Committee are also actively working on the Trafficking Subcommittee of the LB 746 Strengthening Families Act/Normalcy Task Force in an effort to ensure coordination and shared goals.
- Screening & Assessment Committee.
 - NHTTF has identified as a key issue the need to improve screening and assessment of human trafficking by enforcement, services and community partners. To address

¹¹ Until recently, NHTTF also participated in fulfilling speaking and training requests to the Omaha Child Exploitation Task Force (OCETF)/FBI.

this, this committee was established, and was meeting approximately every other week until late December of 2015, with draft screening tools developed. Since March of 2016, the committee has not met. However, a law enforcement “pre-screening” tool has been finalized, and a “screening tool” identified. These will be incorporated into the NHTTF regional trainings anticipated to be given in the Fall of 2016.

o New Committees

- To move NHTTF forward and promote sustainability, beginning on or about March 8, 2016, the Work Group initiated the process to establish the following committees: Data & Reporting; Native American Participation; Labor Trafficking; Faith Communities; Health Care System; Hospitality Industry; and Education. (Transportation, Gambling, and Agriculture are other “Community Partners,” yet to be addressed.)
- It is anticipated these committees will be convened by July of 2016.

5. “Governor’s Human Trafficking Task Force.”

The “Governor’s Human Trafficking Task Force” was established by the Nebraska Legislature to carry out certain designated functions (all of which have been accomplished) and to periodically report to the Nebraska Legislature. The NHTTF Coordinator is a standing member of the “Governor’s Human Trafficking Task Force,” and routinely reports to the “Governor’s Task Force” at its periodic meetings. The October 20, 2015, “Report & Recommendations” used by the Attorney General to initiate NHTTF was also used by the “Governor’s Task Force” to constitute its most recent annual report to the Nebraska Legislature. Leadership of the “Governor’s Task Force” has publically raised the question of whether or not the “Governor’s Task Force” should “sunset.” NHTTF has a number of affiliates who also are on the “Governor’s Task Force,” and anticipates additional “Governor’s Task Force” members joining the work of NHTTF.

6. Women’s Fund of Omaha

The Women’s Fund of Omaha is a private foundation dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls, especially through research, grants and advocacy. It has a project dedicated to sex trafficking, which is led by one of the few people in Nebraska working full-time against human trafficking. The Women’s Fund of Omaha is a key partner in NHTTF. Among its projects regarding sex trafficking are the following:

- Trafficking Response Coordinator. The Trafficking Response Coordinator for the Women's Fund of Omaha (Meghan Malik) routinely consults with and otherwise substantially assists NHTTF, through projects described below; through public awareness, training and education; through assistance with the Work Group and committees; and otherwise.
- Survivor Voice Report: In conjunction with UNL and UNMC, the Women's Fund of Omaha has funded a research project regarding sex trafficking survivors in Nebraska. They anticipate a detailed summary of the report from this survey will be publicized in June of 2016. The report will be used by NHTTF to inform its future formation and operations.
- Creighton University Human Trafficking Initiative: The Women's Fund of Omaha funds this Initiative, which has an expanding empirical study of sex trafficking based on analysis of on-line solicitation for commercial sex acts. Through The Women's Fund of Omaha, the Creighton Initiative provides empirical data used by NHTTF to raise public awareness, conduct training, and inform policy decisions.
- Coalition On Human Trafficking Hotel-Motel Project Grant: The Women's Fund of Omaha has funded a grant to the Coalition On Human Trafficking, in part to allow the Coalition to hire a part-time administrator for its "Hotel-Motel Project" and otherwise to assist with this Project.
- Human Trafficking Training Contract Consultant: The Women's Fund of Omaha recently contracted with Anna Brewer, former FBI Special Agent and founder of the Omaha Child Exploitation Task Force, to work on sex trafficking matters. As a part of this, and as approved by the Women's Fund of Omaha, Ms. Brewer works with NHTTF to raise public awareness, prepare and provide training, and consult regarding policy and operations.
- Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) Special Projects Coordinator Grant: The Women's Fund of Omaha recently funded a grant for the hiring of a Special Projects Coordinator by the CAC to assist in developing the Nebraska and CAC response and operational protocols to counter the commercial exploitation of youth in Nebraska. The Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers are integral to the NHTTF plan for responding to young people affected by human trafficking. The CAC is a member of the NHTTF Work Group, Training Committee, and other NHTTF committees.
- Nebraska Human Trafficking Services Survey: As reported in the original "Report & Recommendations," the Women's Fund of Omaha funded and, in conjunction with NHTTF, conducted a non-scientific, state-wide survey of perceived needs and response capabilities regarding services for victims and survivors of human trafficking, regarding which a public report is available through the Women's Fund of Omaha. This report has been used by NHTTF regarding public awareness, training, and planning.

7. Coalition On Human Trafficking.

The Coalition On Human Trafficking was initiated by three Orders of Catholic Sisters, in Omaha, in or about 2014, to work against human trafficking through identification of needed services, education, legislation, and the training of hotel-motel staffs to recognize and respond to human trafficking (the “Hotel-Motel Project”).

- The NHTTF Coordinator, the Douglas County Sheriff, the Trafficking Response Coordinator from the Women’s Fund of Omaha, and the Human Trafficking Training Contract Consultant from the Women’s Fund of Omaha (all in significant positions associated with NHTTF) serve on the Coalition On Human Trafficking (Omaha, NE).
- The Coalition On Human Trafficking (Coalition) includes, among others, those noted immediately above; three orders of Catholic Sisters (Coalition founders), Project Harmony (youth advocacy center [CAC] serving Douglas and Sarpy Counties in Nebraska (Omaha Metro Area) and several counties in Iowa; Catholic Charities; CHI (health care system); and the Archdiocese of Omaha Outreach Program.
- NHTTF has worked closely with the Coalition On Human Trafficking regarding its “Hotel-Motel Project,” (Project) which seeks to train all staff of hotels and motels within a 50-mile radius of Omaha, including Lincoln and facilities on I-80 and I-29, regarding human trafficking signs and responses. The Project has completed its pilot phase and entered its work phase.
 - To initiate its work phase, the Mayor of Omaha, in conjunction with the Nebraska Attorney General and several other entities held a public information event. Mayors in Council Bluffs and other municipalities are doing likewise.
 - The NHTTF Coordinator has worked closely with the Coalition to draft and amend its local hotel-motel training, and to train the trainers and ambassadors under the Coalition Project. Three such training sessions have been held since March of 2016.
 - The NHTTF Coordinator and various NHTTF affiliates have worked with the Coalition to educate and promote the anti-human trafficking cause with the Omaha Metro Hospitality Association, the Omaha Visitors Bureau, and other key entities dealing with major events in Omaha.¹²

SUMMARY

Members of NHTTF have worked diligently since the commissioning of NHTTF by Attorney General Peterson on October 20, 2015. In the intervening approximately six months, NHTTF has continued and expanded its committee work; developed and tested a substantial

¹² Empirical research by the Creighton University Human Trafficking Initiative, referred to above, has demonstrated the “ripple effect” on the incidence of sex trafficking which major events in Omaha have throughout Nebraska, Iowa, and potentially other states.

multi-disciplinary training; developed pre-screening and screening tools for law enforcement; substantially supported the Omaha Metro "Hotel-Motel Project;" worked with NSP and FBI to attempt to enhance the cooperative working relationship; consulted regarding declared and potential human trafficking cases (labor and sex trafficking) with the U. S. Attorney's Office, the FBI, U.S. Homeland Security-HIS, the Iowa Attorney General's Office, and various other public and private entities; formed or extended the beginnings of anti-human trafficking coalition and NHTTF membership across Nebraska, including, but not limited to, Columbus, Hastings, Lexington, Kearney, Omaha and Lincoln; extended alliances with various "Community Partner" groups, especially including parts of the health care system and faith communities; extended alliances with anti-human trafficking government and non-government entities in Iowa; raised public awareness, and otherwise sought to establish a sustainable, "integrated, balanced and proactive" human trafficking task force.

In spite of these efforts, there is much left to accomplish to establish a sustainable, "integrated, balanced and proactive" human trafficking task force. Future efforts should begin with concerted effort between now and September, when intensive two-day training can, under the conditions of the Federal OVC-BJA Grant, be given across Nebraska in at least six locations to train NHTTF response teams. These short-term efforts should include: expanding NHTTF across Nebraska, while maintaining efforts to establish the NHTTF model in the Omaha Metro; forming response teams with formal MOUs and SOPs, in a tiered, prioritized approach, and initiating proactive operations in selected areas to target human traffickers, buyers, and businesses which knowingly or with reckless disregard facilitate and benefit from the operation of a sex trafficking venture, and which enforcement operations seek the most serious, readily provable offense applicable to traffickers, buyers, and facilitators; establishing the systematic structure for and SOPs regarding the identification and assessment, referral to service, provision of service, and immediate implementation of safety planning of and for victims and survivors of human trafficking; and seeking, through respectively appropriate public or private means, to enhance service capability, enhance enforcement capability, enhance penalties and other appropriate disposition in criminal matters, enhance reporting and data, enhanced victim funding, and establish or enhance related functions, such as victim compensation, victim/survivor advocacy, forensic nursing, and mental health and substance abuse services.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Patrick O'Meara
NHTTF Coordinator