

**Membership Meeting Notes**

January 24, 2025

* Welcome
* Introduction of Board Members and Officers
  + (Raleigh -Pam Strickland, Susan Chung, Nikki Locklear, Megan Garcia-Davis, Sarah Michael McNeese; Greensboro- Cindy King, Nick Miller; Asheville-Dean Duncan; Charlotte- John Das; Virtual – Kara Griffin)
* Introduction of Members Present
  + (Michael Thompson, Niki Miller, Bretta Shroud, Michelle Scott, Nicolas Reiner
* Report from the Chair – Mission Triangle updates of progress, mission & vision statements.
* New Teams
  + Community Involvement – Board Member Cindy will be leading. She gave out info on signing up to members if they had an interest in joining. The purpose is to engage the community of members and bring in new members.
  + Fundraising- This is mainly for grants investigation and fundraising events. Will work with Treasurer.
* NCCAHT representative to the Human Trafficking Commission – In need of a new representative in light of Dawn moving to another state.
* Potential grant partnership with RTI – From a former board member Rhonelle, and her connection, Stacy Cutbush, at RTI attended info sessions on the grant itself, topic and focus of funding is in youth re-entry programming (in partnership with NC division of juvenile justice) research on those persons who are at risk or have experienced child sex trafficking. (Next Newsletter will have more info on this topic for members)
* Ruth Relos Human Trafficking Prevention Grant – Ruth was an active member of Partners Against Trafficking Humans (PATH NC) who was passionate about preventing human trafficking and other poor outcomes for youth. A funder has $2,300 to create a grant to be disbursed to NCCAHT members. Application is online, and dates are also posted there. Other members or community members who have a passion for this work and are able will be given the opportunity to donate and contribute to these funds.
  + The question asked by the members present was, “Will there be a smaller committee to review these grants applications and communicate the results?” Yes, and if there are folks who are not applying who would like to serve, please let Pam know so we can form this committee.
* Guest Speaker – Member Michael Thompson from Rahmah/Tru recruitment spoke about his efforts to find jobs for survivors/victims after instances of human trafficking. This organization is internationally working in this space as well as within the US. During this presentation Michael gave a bit of info on his background working globally in corporate and tech communities, as well as his first instances of seeing HT in the form of labor trafficking outside the US.
* Told a story of the survivor Laura and how this program helped Laura be placed in a job that fit her need (a job with Michael to better help meet clients where they are with firsthand knowledge) He presents the issue of care after a person has left the crisis situation. He point out that if a survivor doesn’t have a job, they are more likely to return to the trafficking situation.
* Michael and his organization also supplies a workspace/talking space for survivors to get some aid in the job hunt through various platforms. With one of his favorites being his standing Monday night virtual group where he provides coaching/ resume writing/etc. in real time.
* This work can’t be done without also trying to engage potential employers to notice and engage with potential job seekers who may be a survivor.
* Often places like LinkedIn are not possible for survivors seeking to avoid attention from past persecutors – So Michael’s team is introducing the platform VoGo to act as this job space for them where a team of VoGo staff help monitor and access these survivors seeking to use this space. They are currently looking for service providers to engage in this space in a trial setting to see its potential of success.
* Upcoming events with his organization – Holding a job fair for survivors in April 2025 in Charlotte. And they plan to hold another job fair later in the summer in the Triangle.
* Question from members present – How can you help those survivors who are undocumented in the US? Like other instances an undocumented person can get a job with 1099 status.
* Question from members present - Will we be getting his PowerPoint presentation for the website? Yes, we will add to meeting info on site with other information on this meeting.

Discussion Topic: Update from Western NC

Dana from Safelight in Henderson/Buncombe County area is still in disaster relief operations and FEMA applications are still ongoing (for things like housing and temporary housing like campers and hotels)

Board Member Dean who resides in the Asheville area mentioned the slow progress with hotel vouchers for not only survivors but displaced persons in general. And shared that our newly elected Governor has asked for funding of this nature from federal funds to extend into late spring/summer. He also mentioned that the President is currently in WNC and will hopefully be informed about not only disaster relief, but the impact Helene had in IPV work. He mentioned the reality of all the barriers to even get into the more urban areas with the extent of destruction of the infrastructure.

There was also a great deal of talk concerning specifically set aside funds for the human trafficking programs and the various streams of grant revenue. Some monies discussed were the funds being offered by the Human Trafficking Commission, grants managed by Council for Women and Youth Involvement, and federal funds such as VOCA and VAWA.

Newly elected board member Megan who works for Legal Aid’s Farmworkers unit - mentions the legal aid funding in collaboration with Pisgah Legal Services.

Newly elected board member Kara mentioned a resource from a faith-based group, Catholic Charities, who supply a disaster relief form for those seeking aid.

* Announcements: If you or your organization are hosting events, please feel free to share that with us so we can post/repost items to our social media in the hopes to access larger audiences.
  + HT resource center/ triad of hope/ US Attorney’s Office Middle district collaboration for an event during Crime victim's rights week
  + Shield NC – came to the meeting ready to announce their new Executive Director and a new trainer as they continue to grow in 2025
  + Human Trafficking Commission’s direct victim services grant opportunity (previously mentioned) is open for applications and is retroactive through July last year to June of this year (due Feb 7th)
  + Our Voices in collaboration with community victim services coalition will hold a HT 101 training on Tuesday Jan 28th
  + Niki Miller from Shield NC – mentions a private Facebook group for the NC anti Human trafficking community, private group for service providers to talk and share info.
  + Legal Aid – is adding new info on T-visa Bonafide determination status to access benefits earlier (T-visas are capped at 5,000 persons per year)
  + NC Stop HT – offering HT 101 training on the 27th  in Spanish, 29th rocky mount police will also be receiving training.
    - A Ribbon Cutting ceremony will be held January 29, 11am at 1410 Evans Street, Suite 1 Greenville NC
    - NC Stop Human Trafficking Webinar: An Overview of the Anti-Human Trafficking Movement in North Carolina Jan. 29, 2025, 2 PM

**Membership meetings for 2025**

**April 10**  **Membership 11-12:30**

**July 10**  **Membership 11-12:30**

**Oct 9**  **Membership 11-12:30**

Adjourn

**Mission Statement**

We foster connection and collaboration within the anti-human trafficking community.

**Vision Statement**

A united effort to end human trafficking in North Carolina