



HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 2026 | 10 – 11 AM

Attendees: Aaron Dennis, Andrea Franklin, Barry Davidson, Celeste Prince, Chelsea Gaffey, Danielle Davis, Devin Perry, Eric Matheny, Faylin Thurn, Hannah Swift, Heather Wilde, Jason Shawver, Jill Jansen, Jodi Stanton, Katie Blankemeyer, Katie Howell, Kelli Cary, Kody Perrine, Lara Wilken, Lesa Gifford, Linda Powers, Maggie Billings, Mary Culver, Mary Kate Waggoner, Maya Simek, Megan Vermillion, Melisa Minier, Michele Reali-Sorrell, Michelle Grenig, Michelle Hannan, Rebekah Richards, Rick Stauffer, Rosario Allen, Ryn Wolfe Farmer, Samantha Salamon, Tara Meyer, Veronica Scherbauer

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. In-person attendees introduced themselves aloud.
- b. Online attendees introduced themselves via Teams chat.

II. General HTI Updates

- a. Andrea Franklin has joined the HTI team as the Anti-Human Trafficking Project Manager! She previously served in the Crime Victim Services section of the AGO.
- b. The Human Trafficking Summit will return to the Hyatt Regency Columbus on July 30. Workshop proposals will be opening soon!
- c. HTI is developing a demand-reduction report tracking the status of sex buyers statewide since 2019. The report is expected to be completed in the summer of 2026.

III. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Healthcare – No representatives attended and no update was provided.
- b. Law Enforcement – Aaron Dennis
 - i. The AGO is collaborating with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) on compiling a law enforcement data dashboard – when complete, this will be a public-facing resource featuring human trafficking data from a wide variety of law enforcement agencies across Ohio.
 - ii. The Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OCIC) continues to focus on statewide training for task force members and other law enforcement professionals focused on holistic approaches to investigation and prosecution.
 - iii. Aaron, Jason Shawver (State Medical Board) and Kathy Chen (DPS) continue to provide technical support to those working illicit massage business (IMB) cases.



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1. Aaron Dennis: Aaron.Dennis2@OhioAGO.gov
 2. Jason Shawver: jason.shawver@med.ohio.gov
 3. Kathy Chen: ykchen@dps.ohio.gov
- iv. Work continues on HB 507, which would create a new criminal statute for receiving proceeds from prostitution
- c. Legal & Legislative – Samantha Salamon
 - i. The subcommittee continues its work exploring additional avenues for victims to obtain compensation
 - ii. The group is also exploring pre-sentencing investigation (PSI) questions as an avenue to identify potential human trafficking victims
 - iii. Continuing to track relevant legislation
 - d. Demand Reduction – No representatives attended and no update was provided.
 - e. Public Awareness – Lara Wilken
 - i. The subcommittee is finalizing their work on updating two documents: “Apps to Watch” and “Parent Resource Guide.”
 - ii. Coordinating with the AGO Communications team on a Summit video highlighting anti-trafficking work in Ohio
 - f. Research, Data & Gap Analysis – No representatives attended and no update was provided.
 - g. Victim Services – Chelsea Gaffey & Michelle Hannan
 - i. The subcommittee continues to update the [Standards of Service for Trafficked Persons](#).
 - ii. Agencies that recently completed the survey or renewal process will receive an update on their status soon.
 - iii. New organizations are being added to the directory as standards are met, and supplementary documents are provided.
- IV. Ambassador Advisory Council Updates – Mary Kate Waggoner**
- a. Training on legislative advocacy was provided to the Ambassadors by the Ohio Attorney General’s Legislative Director, Katie Blankeyer.
 - b. Ambassadors were given an opportunity to share updates with HTC if desired. No updates were given.
- V. Upcoming Trainings & Developments**
- a. The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking held its second annual Advocacy Day at the Statehouse in early February.
 - b. Gracehaven and Franklinton Prep High School completed their third annual Human Trafficking Summit for Educators; Gracehaven will also host a March webinar series on trafficking and social media.



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- c. The Seeds of Empowerment Coalition hosted “Class in Session,” a training for youth-serving professionals.
- d. University of Toledo will host a survivor-led conference on March 26th (contact: Marie Fitzpatrick, mrsfitzy1990@gmail.com).
- e. Salvation Army of Central Ohio continues offering free tattoo removal for survivors through a partnership with a local medical spa (contact: melanie.deis@use.salvationarmy.org).
- f. OhioHealth SARNCO will host its SAAM conference on April 8th with keynote Rosa Beltre; survivor support groups begin soon (contact: mary.culver@ohiohealth.com).
- g. The Catholic Diocese of Columbus will host the first of four trafficking awareness events on March 20th in Chillicothe, geared toward religious leaders and helping professionals (contact: dlyons@columbuscatholic.org).
- h. Devin Perry (OJPC) will present at an upcoming conference on housing as a cause and consequence of trafficking (contact: dperry@ohiojpc.org).
- i. Ohio’s only LGBTQIA+ homeless shelter will open in Mahoning Valley on March 16th ([Full Spectrum Community Outreach](#)).
- j. Veronica Scherbauer encouraged attendees to send events or resources for inclusion in the Governor’s monthly newsletter (vpscherbauer@dps.ohio.gov). She also noted that DPS hosts the Network of Anti-Trafficking Coalitions and welcomes participation.