



# HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

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## **MEETING MINUTES**

**December 8, 2025 | 10 – 11 AM**

**Attendees:** Aarin LaVrar, Aaron Dennis, Aaron Murnan, Alyssa Newell, Anna Travis, Anne Mann, Annette Mango, Becca Peckinpaugh, Cassandra Hartman, Chelsea Gaffey, Chris Sands, Dancy D’Souza, Danielle Davis, David Lyons, Debra Seltzer, Devin Perry, Elizabeth Thompson, Emily Henthorn, Eric Matheny, Gloryanne Kilgore, Gwen England, Hannah Swift, Harold D’Souza, Heather Mills, Heather Mohrman, Holly Reagan, James Mackey, Jason Shawver, Jenny Knetig, Jennifer Moreland, Jodi Stanton, John Cavanaugh, Julie Shroyer, Kathy Chen, Katie Blankemeyer, Kelli Cary, Kelsey Hurst, Kristina Nicholson, Kwami Adoboe-Hererra, Lara Wilken, Latasha Brown, Lauren Kilburn, Lesa Gifford, Lily Holderbaum, Linda Majeska Powers, Maggie Billings, Mary Kate Waggoner, Marie Fitzpatrick, Maya Simek, Melanie Deis, Melinda Bailey, Melisa Minier, Michelle Brewer, Michelle Grenig, Michelle Hannan, Micayla Wilson, Naima Ilmi, Natasha Stephens, Nick Carter, Patrice Patton-Campbell, Robert Linderman, Rosa Beltre, Sally Duffy, Samantha Salamon, Tiffany Tripp, Veronica Scherbauer

**I. Welcome and Introductions** – Linda Majeska Powers & Mary Kate Waggoner

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

**II. Subcommittee Updates**

- a. Healthcare – Lily Holderbaum
  - i. The subcommittee is working collaboratively to update the document: [Policy and Procedure: Clinical Management of Human Trafficking Patients and/or Those at Risk for Exploitation](#).
  - ii. The group voted on a purpose statement to be added to the document.
  - iii. Meetings will be reconvened in the new year.
- b. Law Enforcement – Aaron Dennis & Kathy Chen
  - i. The Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OCIC) and Kathy Chen from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) have been hard at work conducting trainings for various human trafficking task forces around the state and providing support to local task forces on illicit massage business (IMB) cases. Both Aaron and Kathy are available to provide technical support to those working IMB cases.
    - 1. Aaron Dennis: [Aaron.Dennis2@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:Aaron.Dennis2@OhioAGO.gov)
    - 2. Kathy Chen: [ykchen@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:ykchen@dps.ohio.gov)



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- ii. The Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) has hired an analyst, Chris Sands, to assist with human trafficking cases and will be housed under OCIC!
  - iii. The first Law Enforcement Subcommittee meeting under Aaron's leadership will be convening soon.
- c. Legal & Legislative – Samantha Salamon
  - i. The subcommittee has passed the baton to the Healthcare Subcommittee to explore avenues to mandate human trafficking training for nurses. Representatives from the Healthcare Subcommittee are working on this goal via continued conversations with OBN.
  - ii. The group will continue to explore zoning laws as a potential means of combatting illicit massage businesses (IMBs) as a 2026 goal.
  - iii. Additionally, expanding avenues for victims to obtain compensation continues to be a goal of the subcommittee in 2026.
  - iv. A meeting will be held in December to finalize all 2026 goals.
- d. Demand Reduction – No representatives attended and no update was provided.
- e. Public Awareness – Lara Wilken
  - i. A new round of data was collected to gain an understanding of the range and scope of training being conducted by HTC members across Ohio.
  - ii. The subcommittee is continuing their work on updating two documents: "Apps to Watch" and "Parent Resource Guide."
- f. Research, Data & Gap Analysis – Mary Kate Waggoner
  - i. The most recent meeting featured guest speakers from Allies Against Slavery who presented national data trends and methodology to bolster the ongoing efforts of the group.
- g. Victim Services – Chelsea Gaffey & Michelle Hannan
  - i. The subcommittee has begun updating the [Standards of Service for Trafficked Persons](#).
  - ii. Agencies that met the standards three years ago are up for renewal. The survey and associated documents are due to the HTI team by the end of 2025. Agencies up for renewal have received an email from the HTI team.
  - iii. New organizations are being added to the directory as standards are met, and supplementary documents are provided.



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### III. Ambassador Advisory Council Updates – Mary Kate Waggoner

- a. An in-person meeting was held in October for vision-casting and discussions with the Attorney General.
- b. Ambassadors were given an opportunity to share personal or professional updates with the HTC if desired. No updates were given.

### IV. Upcoming Trainings & Developments

- a. Eric Matheny shared that the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking (Cleveland) is planning another statewide advocacy day at the Ohio Statehouse for early 2026. Many of the legislative talking points will revolve around decriminalizing human trafficking survivors.
- b. On January 16, 2026, DPS is hosting a juvenile justice roundtable with court personnel. Email Micayla Wilson for more information: [mlwilson@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:mlwilson@dps.ohio.gov).
- c. DPS is also hosting a webinar series throughout the month of January:
  - i. Data in Action: Using National and State Human Trafficking Data
    - 1. January 8, 2026 from 10 am - Noon EST
    - 2. [Register here](#)
  - ii. Serving Child & Youth Survivors: Updates on Ohio's Response to Human Trafficking in the Child Protection System
    - 1. January 15, 2026 from 10 am - Noon EST
    - 2. [Register here](#)
  - iii. Supporting Survivors: Nonprofit Strategic Planning and Sustainability
    - 1. January 22, 2026 from 10 am - Noon EST
    - 2. [Register here](#)
- d. Hannah Swift from Gracehaven shared several updates via email:
  - i. Gracehaven is hiring! Specifically, they are looking for second shift staff at our group home. More information can be found on their website: <https://gracehavenohio.org/join/>
  - ii. Gracehaven and Franklinton Prep High School will be hosting their 3rd annual Educators' Human Trafficking Awareness Summit on Friday, February 13. Registration opens December 15.
  - iii. Gracehaven has an abundance of printed Child Victims and Witnesses Support Materials from OVC that they would like to share with partners. Please contact [info@gracehavenohio.org](mailto:info@gracehavenohio.org) for more information.
- e. A partnership amongst the Ohio Attorney General's Human Trafficking Initiative, BB Aesthetic & Wellness Medical Spa, and the Salvation Army



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of Central Ohio is providing free laser tattoo removal services for survivors of human trafficking in Central Ohio! Survivors interested in participating may begin by completing the [online application](#). Once submitted, the application will be reviewed by team at the Salvation Army's Anti-Human Trafficking Program. A team member will reach out to applicants to schedule an in-person or virtual meeting to discuss next steps and available support.

### **V. 2026 HTC Meeting Dates**

- a. Scheduled in a hybrid format (in person at the Mount Carmel Healthy Living Center and virtually via Teams):
  - i. March 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - ii. June 8<sup>th</sup>
  - iii. September 14<sup>th</sup>
  - iv. December 14<sup>th</sup>

### **VI. General Human Trafficking Initiative (HTI) Updates**

- a. Since its inception, the HTC has grown significantly in size and scope. As we enter the new year, bylaws will be rolling out for all HTC members to review and agree to. More info to come!
- b. Linda Powers announced that she is transitioning out her role with HTI, and is passing leadership responsibilities to Mary Kate Waggoner, who is now serving as the Director of Victim Services. Any questions or needs related to HTI or the HTC can be directed to Mary Kate.