



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

(Nebraska Crime Commission)

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MEMO

To: Mr. Patrick J. O'Donnell, Clerk of the Legislature; Senator John Wightman, Chair, Executive Board of the Legislative Council - For submission to the Nebraska Legislature by December 1, 2012

Date: November 30, 2013

From: Michael E. Behm, Executive Director, Nebraska Crime Commission

Re: Submission of Human Trafficking Task Force -Update to the Legislature by December 1, 2012, per §81-1431

On behalf of the Task Force on Human Trafficking, I am submitting herewith our three sub-committee updates:

The first is **The Public Awareness Work Group** – they discussed and identified efforts being taken to prevent Human Trafficking from occurring; and recommended future tasks:

- The Nebraska State Patrol distributed posters at rest stops and truck stops during April, May and June 2013.
- The Department of Labor mailed posters to truck stops, trucking companies and gas stations.
- The Department of Education electronically distributed materials to middle schools and high schools across the state.
- Most human trafficking victims, especially youth, are more likely to access information through social media, texting, apps, QR codes and the like, not posters. Further work needs to be done on identifying and utilizing technology to reach trafficking victims requiring additional funding.
- The University of Nebraska has developed a website called the *Red Shawl* which brings together a great deal of information related to Human Trafficking in Nebraska, but, consistent marketing and branding is an issue.

The **second is The Curriculum Work Group**- they developed lesson plans and a Practitioner Manual. In addition, training has been provided to promote awareness and services available.

- A Lesson Plan and accompanying Practitioner Manual was approved by the Human Trafficking Task Force and officially submitted to the Legislature on November 29, 2012.
- Since that time, training has been implemented through various venues for law enforcement, attorneys, judges and victim assistance agencies. The material developed has been shared with Nebraska Health and Human Services for use in training child protective and adult protective workers.
- A new Committee "Education and Awareness and Education" committee was formed to develop resources for educators, other service providers, community groups and the general public to promote recovery, protect families and children who may be profoundly impacted by such abuse.

The **third is The Research/Data/Report Work Group**-At the October 31, 2013 Task Force meeting, a motion was approved to identify a Nebraska University or College to conduct research regarding the 'Extent to which human trafficking is prevalent in Nebraska.'

- On July 1, 2013 the research subcommittee on human trafficking published our first report. Since that time we have been evaluating what the best next step would be to evaluate the extent of human trafficking in Nebraska.
- We believe an independent study by experienced individuals would be the best next step. Over the last months we have attempted to identify individuals willing to do a study using the \$30,000 available.
- It has been very difficult to identify experienced researchers willing to attempt a human trafficking study on such a small budget. We are excited that two qualified researchers are now willing to do the study.
- Dr. Ron Hampton and Dr. Dwayne Ball are experienced researchers from the University of Nebraska that have done human trafficking research.
- The Work Group recommends the acceptance of their proposal for a human trafficking study.

End

Cc: Senator Amanda McGill
Chairman Stan Clouse
Task Force members