# LOUISIANA HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION COMMISSION AND ADVISORY BOARD 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 29, 2021

# **Table of Contents**

# **Membership Rosters**

	Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission Leadership2
	Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission Members2-3
	Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Advisory Board Leadership4
	Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Advisory Board Members4-5
	Louisiana Governor's Office5
<b>Overview</b> 6	
<b>2019-2020 Year in Review</b>	
2019-2020 Commission and Advisory Board Meetings9-10	
2021 1	Priorities

# **Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission Leadership**

### Natalie LaBorde

Executive Counsel, Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections – Corrections Services Chair, Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission (225) 342-8131 – Natalie.LaBorde@la.gov

### **Storm Ehlers**

Court Attorney, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court
Executive Counsel to the Chairperson, Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission
(504) 658-9602 – <a href="mailto:scehlers@nola.gov">scehlers@nola.gov</a>

# Tommy Clark, Jr.

Chief of Police, Grambling, LA
Chair-Elect, Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission
(318) 247-3771 – <a href="mailto:clarktommy12@gmail.com">clarktommy12@gmail.com</a>

### **Kristine Russell**

District Attorney, Lafourche Parish (17<sup>th</sup> JDC)
Co-Chair-Elect, Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission
(985) 447-2003 – da17jdc@lpda.org

# Louisiana Governor's Office

### Dr. Dana Hunter

Executive Director, Children's Cabinet (225) 219-4999 – <u>Dana.Hunter@la.gov</u>

# **Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission Members**

### **Senator Ronnie Johns**

Senator – District 27 johnsr@legis.la.gov

### **Representative Valarie Hodges**

Representative – District 64 hodgesv@legis.la.gov

# **Monica Taylor**

Designee, Louisiana Attorney General's Office TaylorM@ag.louisiana.gov

### **Kenneth Burrell**

Designee, Louisiana Workforce Commission KBurrell@lwc.la.gov

### **Gerald Millet**

Designee, Louisiana Department of Education Gerald.Millet@la.gov

### **William Sommers**

Deputy Secretary, Office of Juvenile Justice William.Sommers@la.gov

### **Marketa Walters**

Secretary, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services

Marketa. Walters@la.gov

### **Sundee Winder**

Designee, Louisiana Department of Health Member, Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission Sundee.Winder@la.gov

# Lisa Powell-Quinjano

Senior Trooper, Louisiana State Police Member, Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission lisa.quinjano@la.gov

### Michael Ranatza

Executive Director, Louisiana Sheriff's Association michael@lsa.org

# Angela White-Bazile, Esq.

Executive Counsel to Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson, Human Trafficking Judicial Liaison Secretary, Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission abazile@LADC.org

### **Bob Wertz**

Designee, Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice Bob.Wertz@la.gov

### **Richard Pittman**

Designee, Louisiana Public Defender Board rpittman@lpdb.la.gov

# Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Advisory Board Leadership

### Susanne B. Dietzel, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Eden House New Orleans Chair, Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission Advisory Board (504) 407-0943 – <a href="mailto:sdietzel@edenhousenola.org">sdietzel@edenhousenola.org</a>

# **Casey Morace**

Outreach Training Supervisor, Monroe Region, Louisiana United Methodist Children and Families, Inc.

Chair-Elect, Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission Advisory Board (318) 513-2096 – <a href="mailto:casey.morace@lmch.org">casey.morace@lmch.org</a>

# **Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Advisory Board Members**

### Hon. Candice B. Anderson

Chief Judge, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court <a href="mailto:cbanderson@nola.gov">cbanderson@nola.gov</a>

### **Toni Bankston**

National Association of Social Workers toni@batonrougecac.org

### Taneka Blacknell

Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation thblacknell@fbi.gov

### Amanda Brunson

Director of Women's Policy, Office of Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards <u>Amanda.Brunson@la.gov</u>

# **Alliece Cole**

Director of Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative, Empower 225 <u>alliece.cole@healingplacechurch.org</u>

### **Ted Cox**

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Board tcox@caddo.org

### Rafael de Castro

Foundation Against Sexual Assault rafael@lafasa.org

### **Cassie Hammett**

Director, The Hub Urban Ministries cassie@thehubministry.com

### Michelle Johnson

Empower 225

michelle.johnson@empower225.org

# **James Kelly**

Director, Covenant House jkelly@covenanthouse.org

# L. Clayton Kleinpeter, MD

Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics lckleinpeter@gmail.com

### Nadia Lee

Prevention Program Assistant, Eden House nlee@edenhousenola.org

## Reshelle Marino, Ph.D.

Louisiana School Counselors Association reshelle.marino@selu.edu

# Hon. Kathleen Stewart Richey

Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) krichey@louisianacasa.org

# Rafael Salcedo, Ph.D.

Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists rsalcedo56@gmail.com

### **Reshonn Saul**

President, Louisiana Families in Need of Services (FINS) Association reshonn.saul@stjamesla.com

# **Kate Shipley**

Executive Director, Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers <u>Director.lacacs@gmail.com</u>

# Overview of Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and Advisory Board

Louisiana has taken steps over the last decade to study its anti-human trafficking efforts statewide and to improve its efforts through prevention education, protection for survivors, prosecution of traffickers, and partnerships with community providers. The Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission ("the Commission") was created within the Office of the Governor during the 2017 Regular Legislative Session. Act 191 enacted Part II of Chapter 28-B of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statues of 1950¹, to be comprised of R.S 46:2165 through 2168, and entitled "Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and Advisory Board."

The purpose of the Commission is to assist state and local leaders in developing and coordinating human trafficking (HT) prevention programs and initiatives, to identify gaps in prevention and intervention services, to conduct a continuing comprehensive review of all existing public and private HT programs, , and ultimately, to make recommendations with respect to HT prevention and intervention. A chairperson and co-chair are elected by the Commission from among its membership. Additionally, the Commission is required to annually issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the president of the Senate no later than the first day of February each year thereafter.

The Human Trafficking Prevention Commission's Advisory Board ("Advisory Board") provides information and recommendations from the perspective of advocacy groups, service providers, and trafficking victims to the Commission. The Advisory Board is required to elect one of its members to serve on the Commission and to be Chair. The Commission and Advisory Board voted to continue jointly meetings.

This year, as required by statute, the Commission elected a chairperson and a co-chair. Natalie LaBorde, who serves as the Executive Counsel of Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections, was nominated by Judge Joy Lobrano to serve as chairperson of the Commission with Susanne B. Dietzel, Ph.D, the Executive Director of Eden House New Orleans, nominated as the chairperson of the Advisory Board. Dr. Dana Hunter, Executive Director of the Governor's Office Children's Cabinet, serves as the liaison to the Office of the Governor with respect to the providing of "such clerical, administrative, and technical assistance and support as may be necessary to enable the commission to accomplish its goals" as required by La. R.S. 46:2167(D). This report is submitted by the Louisiana Human Trafficking Commission and its Advisory Board pursuant to Act 181 of the 2017 Regular Legislative Session.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and Advisory Board. (2019). Annual report 2018. https://www.lasc.org/documents/2018\_HTPC\_Exec\_Summary\_and\_Annual\_Report.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Part II. Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and Advisory Board. La. R.S. 46:2165 (2017). https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=1056882.

### **2019-2020 YEAR IN REVIEW**

Beginning in June 2019 and continuing throughout 2020, the Commission and Advisory Board agreed to simplify the structure of the Commission and its annual report in order to work towards accomplishing what the Louisiana legislature charged this Commission with. In these efforts, the Commission has utilized a framework called the 4 "Ps" Paradigm; focusing on Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnerships which was introduced to members during the December 2019 Commission and Advisory Board meeting and was approved.

This framework was taken from the United States' Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transactional Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol).<sup>3</sup> While the original framework was the "3P" paradigm constituting of Prosecution, Protection, and Prevention, "a fourth 'P' – for partnership – serves as a complementary means to achieve progress across the 3Ps and enlist all segments of society in the fight against modern slavery."<sup>4</sup>

Shortly after the Commission and Advisory Board meeting held in February 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States, which halted formal meetings of the Commission, as state agencies worked towards containing the spread of COVID-19 in their respective fields. However, Advisory Board members who work in the field of anti-human trafficking efforts and survivor services continued their hard work amidst the challenges of the pandemic.

### Prevention

On September 9, 2020, First Lady Donna Edwards hosted the second annual Global Human Trafficking Summit with First Spouses from around the country in attendance along with Louisiana stakeholders. The Summit covered human trafficking awareness, legislation, statewide best practices, outreach and education, online safety, community and faith-based partnerships. A member of the Louisiana Child and Youth Trafficking Collaborative (LCYTC) Survivor Advisory Council, a federally funded anti-trafficking project lead by the Louisiana Governor's Office, shared a testimony of her experience and challenged attendees to work together to prosecute traffickers and protect victims. The Summit closed with a call to action by First Lady Edwards to sign a pledge to eradicate human sex trafficking.

## Protection

In 2020, cross-sector partners worked diligently in partnership with the Louisiana Child and Youth Trafficking Collaborative (LCYTC) to either create-or strengthen trafficking specific

 $<sup>^3</sup>$  3Ps: Prosecution, protection, and prevention. U.S. Department of State: Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Retrieved November 12, 2020, from <a href="https://www.state.gov/3ps-prosecution-protection-and-prevention/#:~:text=In%20addition%2C%20a%20fourth%20%E2%80%9CP%E2%80%9D%E2%80%94for%20partnership%E2%80%94serves%20as%20a,of%20society%20in%20the%20fight%20against%20modern%20slavery.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 3Ps: Prosecution, protection, and prevention. U.S. Department of State: Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Retrieved November 12, 2020, from <a href="https://www.state.gov/3ps-prosecution-protection-and-prevention/#:~:text=In%20addition%2C%20a%20fourth%20%E2%80%9CP%E2%80%9D%E2%80%94for%20partnership%E2%80%94serves%20as%20a,of%20society%20in%20the%20fight%20against%20modern%20slavery.

Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) in each of the nine regions of the state. Additionally, many members of the Advisory Board sit on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) MDTs in their region to identify, investigate, and allocate services to children and youth victims or high-risk individuals.

Also in 2020, the LCYTC created the Louisiana Survivor Advisory Council (La SAC). The SAC meets quarterly to give survivor voice and to advise on LCYTC project goals and outcomes, development and implement statewide trainings and screening tools, and local MDT responses for children and youth trafficking victims. In 2020, the Survivor Advisory Council reviewed and informed the development of the Human Trafficking Awareness and Reporting training that will be presented by regional coordinators to community stakeholders.

### Prosecution

This year, Bob Wertz, Law Enforcement Training Manager of Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, who serves as the designee for LA Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE), presented his work of developing human trafficking training and received grant with the Louisiana District Attorney's Association to develop next-level trainings for law enforcement. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the ability of law enforcement and courts to investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases.

# **Partnerships**

In 2018, the Louisiana Governor's Office was awarded a 1.2 million dollar grant by the United States Department of Justice Office of Victims of Crime to improve outcomes for child victims of human trafficking. This generous funding allowed Louisiana to create the Louisiana Child and Youth Trafficking Collaborative ("the Collaborative"). The Collaborative's overall goal "will be to improve Louisiana's response to child and youth trafficking utilizing a multidisciplinary, region-based approach to achieve statewide coverage." The Collaborative is a partnership between the Office of the Governor, Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers (LACAC), Department of Children and Family Services, Office of Juvenile Justice, Families in Need of Services, Department of Health, Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control, and several other public-private partners. . Through the Collaborative, Children's Advocacy Centers across the state received funding to hire Regional Child and Youth Trafficking Coordinators to provide a variety of services including training, advocacy, and coordination of multi-disciplinary teams in their perspective areas. In January 2020, the Office of the Governor hosted the LCYTC Regional Coordinators as well as a number of stakeholders across the state, including many of whom sit on the Advisory Board, to train the coordinators in human trafficking 101, labor trafficking coordination and taskforce support, trauma-informed care, community response development, juvenile court intervention for trafficked youth, Louisiana

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Louisiana First Foundation. (2020, January). *The Louisiana child and youth trafficking collaborative*. <a href="https://louisianafirstfoundation.com/blog-january-2020/">https://louisianafirstfoundation.com/blog-january-2020/</a>.

human trafficking data, and safety planning for child trafficking victims. The Collaborative is working to establish a statewide MDT structure within regions to enhance coordination and collaboration of services for juvenile HT victims.

### 2019-2020 COMMISSION AND ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS

Following the election of Commission Chair Natalie LaBorde and Advisory Board Chair Susanne B. Dietzel in 2019, one meeting was held via conference call in December 2019. After COVID-19 restrictions and stay at home orders were implemented, the Commission and Advisory Board ceased to meet for several months. Later during the year, the Commission and Advisory Board reconvened and planned two virtual meetings to be held at the end of the year to elect new leadership and develop a strategic plan for 2021.

The Commission and Advisory Board met jointly on December 12, 2019 via conference call. Chair Natalie LaBorde and Executive Counsel to the Chairperson Storm Ehlers facilitated the meeting. Discussions surrounded planning for 2020 and the annual report. The 4 "P's" Paradigm was introduced to all members during this meeting, and it was received well by members and they planned on implementing it moving forward. Ms. LaBorde outlined the 2020 calendar for the Commission and Advisory Board.

The Commission and Advisory Board met jointly on February 20, 2020 in person at the Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections – Corrections Services' Headquarters. During this meeting, Dr. Dana Hunter, Executive Director of the Children's Cabinet and Governor's Office Liaison to the Commission, outlined the efforts led by Governor John Bel Edwards and First Lady Donna Edwards over the last year to end this crime in Louisiana. Among these efforts were the 2019 Louisiana Statewide Human Trafficking Summit and the ongoing work of the Louisiana Child and Youth Trafficking Collaborative (LCYTC)." The main goal of the Statewide Human Trafficking Summit at the Governor's Mansion was to bring a variety of stakeholders from around the state to raise awareness about human trafficking in our state and share each other's best practices in order to better work together in this fight. The final portion of the February 20, 2020 Commission and Advisory Board meeting was reserved for open discussion regarding the 2020 Annual Report and the integration of the 4 "Ps" framework.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission and Advisory Board were not able to meet for the scheduled June 2020 date. The Commission and Advisory Board met jointly on October 22, 2020 via Zoom. First Lady Donna Edwards joined the Commission and Advisory Board to deliver opening remarks and discuss the administration's efforts to combat human trafficking. Also, several Commission and Advisory Board members presented updates to the general body regarding human trafficking prevention and intervention efforts in their fields of expertise. Secretary Marketa Walters updated members on Act 409 and the report published August 2020; citing that the first major recommendation is to create a Statewide Office of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Office of the Governor. (2019, January 9). *Gov. Edwards announces million dollar federal grant to address human trafficking in Louisiana*. <a href="https://gov.louisiana.gov/news/gov-edwards-announces-million-dollar-federal-grant-to-address-human-trafficking-in-louisiana-">https://gov.louisiana.gov/news/gov-edwards-announces-million-dollar-federal-grant-to-address-human-trafficking-in-louisiana-</a>.

Human Trafficking in the Governor's Office. Furthermore, Dr. Dana Hunter updated members on the Collaborative, noting updates in relation to COVID-19. Bob Wertz with the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice (LCLE) explained the agency's training modules that have been developed over the last several years to further train law enforcement officers in identification of human trafficking victims and intervention efforts.

During the October 22, 2020 meeting, Advisory Board members updated the Commission and fellow Advisory Board members on ways their organizations have been pushing forward the hard work of prevention and intervention services on behalf of human trafficking victims and survivors, even amidst COVID-19. The final presentation was given by Chair Natalie LaBorde who updated members on the 2020 Legislative Session: Acts 352 and 246. Act 352 by Senator Reese provides for forfeiture of personal property following conviction of certain sex offenses which includes human trafficking-related offenses. The Court shall order that the persona property used in the commission of the offense be seized or impounded and sold at public sale or auction by the district attorney or otherwise distributed or disposed of in accordance with provisions stated within the Act. Act 246 by Senator Smith discusses conditions of bail "relative to protective orders; provides for domestic violence, stalking, and sex offenses; provides for uniform abuse prevention orders; provides for types of bail; provides for violation of protective orders; provides for decisions of committee on parole; and prohibits communication between offender and victim."

Finally, elections for Chairpersons of the Commission and Advisory Board were held at the October meeting. Chief Tommy Clark, Jr. was elected Chair of the Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission, and District Attorney Kristine Russell was elected Co-Chair of the Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission. Additionally, Casey Morace was elected Chair of the Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Advisory Board and Michelle Johnson was elected Co-Chair of the Advisory Board. The meeting ended with Chair Natalie LaBorde thanking everyone for their hard work and flexibility throughout 2020, and noting that the final meeting of 2020 will be December 17, and the newly elected leadership teams will take office then. During the December meeting, the Commission and Advisory Board will look to 2021 and collaborate on recommendations and priorities to focus on for the next year.

During the December 17, 2020 meeting, the Commission and Advisory Board discussed subcommittee structure and framework. The Commission voted to approve three sub-committees for 2021—sex trafficking of adults, sex trafficking of minors, and labor trafficking and immigration—utilizing a framework that covers prevention, identification, intervention, and prosecution. At the meeting, Chair of the Commission Chief Clark and Chair of the Advisory Board Casey Morace introduced priorities that they hope to focus on in 2021 under the framework of prevention, identification, intervention, and prosecution.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Act 352, SB 383, Louisiana State Legislature Regular Session (2020). https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1182604.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Act 246, SB 505, Louisiana State Legislature Regular Session (2020). <a href="https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1182303">https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1182303</a>.

### 2021 PRIORITIES

The following are priorities that the Commission and Advisory Board aims to address in 2021 through the subcommittees:

- Prevention
  - Trainings in schools, i.e., Love 146, affirmative masculinity/male accountability, "know your rights" labor trainings
  - Public awareness campaigns for sex and labor trafficking
- Identification
  - Trainings for personnel at key intervention points, i.e., hotels, hospitals, OJJ, DCFS, DOJ, behavioral health, etc.
  - Increased human trafficking trauma-informed training of all law enforcement
  - Implementation of regional law enforcement taskforces
  - Multi-disciplinary teams
- Intervention
  - Implementation of regional law enforcement taskforces
  - Multi-disciplinary teams
  - Emergency housing and victim protection for both male, female, and LGBTQ+ victims
  - Designated entity for coordination of services for adult victims
  - Creation of statewide or regional hotline(s)
  - Increase variation of trafficking-specific housing options
  - Consistent and reliable funding source
- Prosecution
  - Creation of special division of district courts (human trafficking court), including sex work diversion programs
  - Creation of John School/ Buyer Beware program implemented statewide by region
  - Trainings of special prosecutors, public defenders, and judges