

NCJTC- Fox Valley | 8-05-2020 How to Conduct Community Notification Meetings

Welcome, everyone, to the National Criminal Justice Training Center webinar. Our topic today is how to conduct community notification meetings on registered sex offenders. Presenters for today's session include Paul Fuentes and Christopher Lobanov-Rostovsky. My name is Joann Joy, and I will serve as your moderator.

This project is supported by a grant awarded by the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking-- otherwise known as the SMART Office-- Office of Justice Programs, US Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this presentation are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice.

I'd like to welcome you, again, to our webinar. I am so very pleased to introduce to you our presenters for today. Christopher Lobanov-Rostovsky is an associate with NCJTC, as well as a licensed clinical social worker and the program director for the Colorado Sex Offender Management Board.

Paul Fuentes is also an associate with the National Criminal Justice Training Center. He serves as a court administrator for the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes.

Before we begin the presentation, we want to begin by opening in a good way. Let us take a moment to reflect on the importance of community. Let us clear thoughts and center our focus on the important work in front of us today.

Paul, I'll turn it over to you.

Thank you, Joann. Hello, everyone. Again, thank you for joining us today, as we talk about how to conduct community notification meetings on registered sex offenders.

So I will give the group a brief overview of the agenda, but over the next 90 minutes, I will just briefly give an overview of community notification, then talk about the Sex Offender Registry public website. And then Chris will jump in, and he'll lead us through the section on how to conduct community meetings.

Then we'll have Joann join back on, and she's going to facilitate some panel discussions. And then, finally, we'll close with some questions and answers. So as we go through our presentation today, if anything comes to mind that you have a question about, feel free to write that in, and we'll be able to take that up at the end. So

Community notification-- I think this part is such an important part. When you think of SORNA, it's really two-fold. So a lot of times, registries place a lot of emphasis on the registration. And, of course, that emphasis needs to be there. That's definitely the backbone.

But we can't forget the second part of it, which is community notification.

And I think it's also a great time to think about why this piece of information or why this part is so important. And I think when we look back-- and I know we cover it on our SORNA 101-- but when we look back at stories or at victims that have suffered tremendously-- I think of Megan, and we are familiar, most of us, with Megan's Law. But when you think of her story, when you think of all the advocacy that came from that story, where sex offenders move into the neighborhood. A family doesn't know that a sex offender is there. And in Megan's case, that ultimately ended in her death.

And so to have family members and other community members advocate on why it is that they did not know that a sex offender lived in their community, it really should, of course, touch our hearts, but touch the hearts of the Registry-- of course, that. But really put the ball on our court to make sure we're doing our part, as far as notifying the community.

So what is community notification? It's the process of sharing information with the community. And that can be very general information about sex offenders, in general. And then we have also seen community notification be about a specific offender. And so to be able to share that.

And, of course, the notifications vary so much. It can be done in many different ways. But we know through SORNA-- and we're going to discuss that in just a second-- but at a minimum, community notification is having the information on your public registry website, which, for many of the tribes and territories, that is TTSORS.

So let's go to the next slide.

So as we talk about the minimum requirement, we know that each tribe, each territory, DC, all the states-- anyone doing a sex offender registry-- is required by SORNA to make that information public. And so we've all have that requirement.

And I mentioned TTSORS earlier. And when you think back when tribes received a notice on whether they're going to adapt SORNA or not, part of that, especially early on, was-- I think-- would have been overwhelming for the tribes to receive that notice. And see that they need to have a public website where this information would be available. But, of course, TTSORS came along, and it was a free

website. And, of course, many of the tribes jumped on.

But I know for our jurisdiction, having TTSORS, the ability to put our sex offender information in there and having that available to the public immediately, with such an important part and really, a great thing from the US Department of Justice SMART Office to make that available to tribes and, of course, territories.

When we think of the National Sex Offender public website, it's like a hub where all of our individual registry websites are feeding information into that. I guess you could picture it that way.

But if you go to the next slide, that gives the, I guess, the, like, the home page of NSOPW. But as you can see, one can search by name or by location. And there's also some advanced search options. But this is the home page where we, as registries or the public in general can come in, do a search.

Now, I think one of the great things about this search is that it's not only pulling from, again, from like the Cheyenne/Arapaho tribes registry. But it's pulling up-- if the sex offender is dually registered anywhere, that information is going to come up and be available, too. For example, if I were to look up one offender on this website that comes to mind, I know that he's going to be pulled up in two different areas. He's going to be pulled up in the Oklahoma registry, and he's going to be pulled up in the Cheyenne/Arapaho tribes registry.

So I think where this information is really good and why we not only need to push this information out on our own TTSORS website, public website, but I think it's important to also tie this into any publications that we do or any community notification events. That they're also getting this. Because, again, both jurisdictions or if there are additional jurisdictions where the sex offender lives, works, or goes to school, all those could potentially come up and be of good information to the person who is trying to look that up.

Let's go to the next slide.

A little more about the Sex Offender Registry public website. The information posted on each jurisdiction site is governed by its sex offender registration laws. So I think that that's important. And under the common variations, we look at this here. But in that NSOPW, sometimes we'll get a question or a call saying they've looked someone up and they're not there. So I think the emphasis that I'd like to make on this slide is that not everyone posts tier one offenders. Not everyone has juvenile offenders.

So when we're giving information out to the community, I think it's important to note that this is a great resource-- like I said. It will provide the information of multiple jurisdictions if that person's registered in different places. But I think the only disclaimer, I think, that one would share is just that not every jurisdiction posts everything about the offender, such as like a tier one offender may not be on there. Some of the juvenile offenders may not be on there. And so I think communicating that is important.

We get questions or not questions, but we get a requests from our housing department often. And a lot of times, they're asking, is this person a sex offender because we're weighing or debating on whether to allow this person to live in this home?

Well, early on, when we didn't have TAP. And early on, before we had that access, our first search was really using NSOPW. And we had a disclaimer and say, hey, this is what's coming on on a public website, but it's a little bit limited.

So then later on, through MOUs with BIA and a county here in nearby-- Kingfisher Country-- we were able to give the housing department a little bit more information. And now that we have TAP, now we are much more confident in the information we're sharing. Because now we're not only looking at NSOPW, but we're looking at NSOR. And NSOR-- the National Sex Offender Registry-- they're oftentimes, people will use the words kind of interchangeably or as though they're one or maybe even get confused. But I do want to make just a couple or at least three distinctions between the National Sex Offender Public Website and the National Sex Offender Registry.

So NSOPW, we just saw the example of the web page, but that's a website where the public can go and get their information. NSOR is only available to law enforcement or authorized criminal justice agencies. So, again, at first, our tribe did not have access to NSOR information. All we were sharing was the public information. But now, through TAP, we have access to the database part-- the NSOR part.

Two other distinctions I wanted to make, and one of them is who operates it So the public website is operated by DOJ or the Office of Justice Programs. Whereas to NSOR is maintained by the FBI. And so each jurisdiction is feeding that information into NSOR and/or NSOPW, but there are two different people who are maintaining or operating NSOPW and NSOR.

And then the last distinction I want to highlight, again-- I've kind of shared already-- but just the amount of information that's available. So the NSOPW can be limited. And NSOR should have much more information about the offender, and even things in there that aren't available that we're

restricted on and cannot share publicly. For this slide, that's really what I wanted to emphasize-- the difference between the public website and then NSOR.

So how community notification works. So I'll just do a walk through of this. And if you're a registry, this is probably familiar with you. But essentially, you register someone who lives or works or goes to school in your jurisdiction.

After taking all that information, usually we are doing it all by paper and pen, and then we take that information and we put it into to our TTSORS website. And once it's in TTSORS, that information can go and be public. So we'll go in the administrative part of TTSORS. We'll put that information in, and then it's available to the public.

One of the things that we try to encourage or I've tried to encourage of the tribes and we try to do here is to increase the number of subscribers. People who go into TTSORS and subscribe so that they get information whenever a sex offender moves into their area or when a new sex offender starts registering with our tribe. Those subscribers would get their notification and information by email.

But community notification, although this is the minimum requirement that we make it available through a website, I think it's important to note that we can go much further than that. And as I said earlier, people of different departments may want information in different ways. And I think it's so good for the registry to be available to provide that information in a way that best fits each agency.

Like I said earlier, for housing, they're submitting a form, and we were replying back in writing on that form. But someone else, it may be by a phone call or it may be by them coming in, in person and asking for an update of information.

So with that overview, I'm going to go ahead and pass this along to Chris, and let him share with us about community meetings.

Thank you, Paul, very much. And hello, everybody out there. It's nice to be talking with you or at you, unfortunately. I really wish that we could be together in person and do these trainings. This is a very difficult time for all of us, and I know that this is a very challenging time for many of you, our friends and partners in tribal communities. And I wish you all the very best, both for your personal health and well-being, that of your family, as well as for your communities.

And we appreciate, very much, you taking the time to attend this training today. We know that things are very serious for you, and you have a lot on your plate in terms of protecting the community and

keeping victims safe. And we are so grateful that you're here.

And we also appreciate the work that you do. We know that SORNA programs often are, sort of, unsung programs within tribal agencies and tribal government. And we just want you to know that we truly appreciate the work that you do. And we appreciate, very much, the SMART Office for all of their work in providing support to tribal communities and in providing support for things like this webinar to be able to take place.

So with that, this part of the training today is going to talk specifically about meetings. And we have talked about this before in a previous webinar, and we thought that this might be helpful to talk about it in a little more detail. So for those of you who are interested in implementing this type of a model, we're going to try and give some more hands-on skill development about what you need to do to be able to do these types of community notification meetings.

And I just want to be very clear that Paul talked about what the requirements are for SORNA in terms of registering the offenders, and then providing the public website, and providing notification to specific tribal agencies and tribal personnel. And then having an email subscriber list for members of the public, who want to get this information. This is an added level. It's sort of an enhancement of a SORNA program.

For those of you who have your SORNA programs well in hand and are looking to advance your program and do additional things and see how the SORNA program can really impact your communities, this is a model that you might consider. And so, we're offering this to you as an option, as something you could consider. And we'll describe a little bit about how this process works.

So when we talk about doing community notification, Paul described two different levels. First of all, providing information in general about sex offenders, and offending, and about all of the registrants that are on your website in your tribal community, if you have some on your website. So how do you get that information out to people about sex offenders, in general?

And then another variation of that is a more targeted community notification on a specific offender. And some jurisdictions and some tribal communities will use that as a way of bringing greater attention to an offender who may be reintegrating back into the community, and who has a particularly high risk for recidivism to alert the community about the sex offender's return.

Paul told the story briefly about Megan Kanka, and I think that the public really sees the value in having this information. That way they can take appropriate protective action for themselves and for

their family members. And so while a more passive notification can be to stand up information on a website and members of the public can go there and/or receive an email alert, this is a bit more active community notification approach, where you're actually doing some specific outreach to the community. Providing them with information about offenders and offending, your registry. And maybe, even a specific offender who you want the public to be aware of and who poses a significant threat to community safety and to the safety of victims.

And so this model is a model that you could use for that purpose. And it helps community members to know what the concerns are that you're trying to raise as part of the SORNA program. How to respond to that in terms of taking, again, that protective action. And also, maybe developing that collaborative approach between the community and the SORNA program, where information can be given to the SORNA program about the registrant.

I think that in small communities and tribal communities, often everybody sort of knows what's going on with a certain individual, but unfortunately, maybe the government officials are the last ones to know. And so what we're encouraging here is not that members of the community take the law into their own hands. But that they express concerns to the SORNA program or to law enforcement, to the supervision officers, if they are involved with a registrant. And that way, we can intervene in that situation before-- hopefully-- something bad happens, like what Paul described with Megan Kanka.

That's what we're all doing. That's why we're doing our work, is to try to keep our communities safe and to prevent bad things from happening. And so by dealing with the registrants, by providing the information and developing that communication feedback loop with the community, this can be a very helpful outcome related to community notification and then, specifically, these meetings.

And we also want to make sure that the public is reporting the right information. They know what to look out for. Sometimes members of the public become very alarmed and concerned when registrants move in back into the community or are living near them. And we don't want phone calls that are irrelevant to risk. We really want to teach the public how to respond in this situation, and what we're looking for. And encourage them to report that, again, rather than taking the law into their own hands.

And so a community meeting is one optional way of doing this. It's not a required way, but it's an optional way of doing this. If you want to take your SORNA program to another level and engage the community in a discussion that, many times, the community maybe has been reluctant to have prior to the implementation of the SORNA program. And I think that's been the real value of the SORNA

program, is that all of a sudden, we're having these conversations. People are aware.

I know that the tribal partners that I've spoken to, they say community wants to know about this. And they want this information. But it's not enough to just give them the information. I think we need to help them to understand what to do with the information. That's our responsibility, as well.

So I also wanted to say something that this is a strange time, as I referred to a few minutes ago. And to think about doing large scale community meetings right now may seem not realistic and not appropriate. We certainly don't want to spread germs and the virus and cause more hardship than is already in a community.

So the meeting concept, the town hall, bringing all the community together to have a discussion may not be a feasible thing right now. So what I'm talking about are things that you could do in the future. Hopefully, with everything willing, that things will work out and things will be better in the future for all of us. It's everybody's wish, obviously. But then there are alternatives that can be done right now.

So if you're looking to do something, but you want to do it in a virus-safe way, looking at other ways in which to do these meetings-- non-traditional. Not town hall style meetings. Personally, I like the face-to-face. I like coming together as a community. Oftentimes tribes will use even getting together with a meal-- having dinner together and then having a community discussion. Such a great way of connecting and talking about these things.

But in the absence of that, perhaps using other platforms. Obviously we've had to adapt our training platform to use this web-based platform. This type of a platform could be used with community members for community notification. Now I know that many times, internet access is a challenge and a problem. So even other ways of doing it.

Some stakeholders that I'm aware of are using other media platforms as a way of doing this. So one tribe that I've worked with has a radio show every Thursday, and they read the information from the registry on this radio show. So that way, the public can get that information. Some jurisdictions use local access television as a way of being able to get that information out.

So I think you can be creative in thinking about, what do you have available? Social media is another one. Many jurisdictions, I think, have found that setting up a Facebook page-- and I'm not advertising any specific social media site-- but just setting up some type of a social media presence and then getting information out that way can be a great way. And it's a way people gather information.

Unfortunately, it seems like this face-to-face stuff is, maybe, a little less prominent in society and

people want to get things much more through devices and things like that. So let's meet the people where they are.

And then, finally-- as Paul described-- I think, certainly, putting information out through your TTSORS website and going and referring to the NSOPW site can be great ways of doing community notification. And that's ultimately our goal, is to educate the community about these issues, and point them to specific information, such as is contained on your TTSORS site and NSOPW.

So what are the benefits of doing this? I think it educates the community. Unfortunately, I think people are very-- they're not knowledgeable about offenders and offending. And, in fact, I think that there are many misconceptions out there about who offenders are and about sexual offending. And many times, as I indicated, I've talked with my tribal partners and they're, like, we don't want to have this conversation. It's not a great conversation to have. It's just another trauma. We don't want to talk about it. But hopefully, this provides a forum to be able to have some open and honest conversations about this.

And to educate. I think that's the key, is education. Knowledge is power. Providing people with real and legitimate information so that they can take appropriate steps and safeguards. And providing them with resources I just think is absolutely critical in that regard.

So what can community members do now that they know that there is a registered sex offender or multiple registered sex offenders within the community? And what can they do to take steps to protect themselves and their loved ones? That's what everybody that I talked to when I've done these types of meetings myself, it's like, OK, well, what can I do? How can I keep myself and my loved ones safe?

And so, we need to be prepared to provide specific resources, and there's some great resources out there. I would just mention right now, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, referred to as NCMEC-- great resource. So many great resources on there.

The SMART Office website and NSOPW have great resources in terms of things that you can do. What to watch out for. How do you know if something bad has happened to a loved one? What should you do about it? How do you deal with it? What are the facts? Because, again, people often don't have the facts.

And then community notification-- I think Paul talked about it in terms of housing. I think it's absolutely critical that we have a mechanism to be able to provide information to businesses that

serve children, businesses where there's housing. Certainly there are federal housing restrictions on where offenders can live, and so we need to have that information flow there.

I've talked with many tribes about Casino businesses and that the need to make sure to limit sex offender access. And yet, many times, people are coming into the tribal community to work in those places, perhaps as contractors or things like that. So how can we check these people out, make sure that they're not an offender? Or if they are an offender, making sure that their work situation is such that they're not coming into contact with children or maybe the public, in some cases?

I'm not suggesting that offenders shouldn't have the opportunity to rehabilitate themselves and have jobs, but we want to know what's going on. And we want to make a conscious decision for them to work in a certain situation, rather than them just starting a job and then realizing, oh, my gosh, they're a registered sex offender. And we get really frightened by that.

As I indicated, also wanting to make sure that the public knows who to call and what information to share. Thinking about some kind of a community policing model, establishing a relationship between the SORNA program and the public, where the public has faith and confidence in the SORNA program. And provides information that if a registrant-- let's say a registrant is registered at a certain place, but the member of the public knows they're not living there. They're living over here with their girlfriend, instead, or something like that. That's the kind of information we want to know about if somebody is being non-compliant with their registry.

So I think that having more active notification and putting a face in front of the community, rather than just a website, can help us with that. And that, I think, is also beneficial to the offender. I know many times, people say, well, this isn't fair. You're overly targeting the offender. You're making it difficult for them to be able to reintegrate into community. But this is about keeping them accountable, and that that enhances their likelihood of success.

And hopefully, provides some level of support from the community. That if they're coming back in a good way to the community, and they're being accountable, and they're following rules, and doing the things that they need to do, then they can become-- hopefully-- a member of the community. Re-engage in the community, again. And I know that many of the tribal partners that I've talked to see that as being a really important component, but want to make sure that that's happening in a good way.

And then, dispelling myths. Obviously, we want that correct information. So what are some of those myths? You'll see some of them on the screen here. I won't read them all to you. You can take a look

at them.

But the members of the public tend not to realize that-- they think OK, a sex offense happens. They get reported. They get arrested. They get tried, convicted. They get sent off to prison forever-- end of story. We don't have to worry about it. And many of them get community supervision right out of the gate or eventually, they're going to come back. The vast majority of them come back. And so the community needs to know that this is part of it.

The community also needs to know that not everyone who has committed a sex offense is on the registry. Many do not ultimately get prosecuted or don't even ever get reported. I get questions all the time in tribal communities about well, how come this guy's not on the registry? He's a sex offender? And it's like, well, he was never charged and convicted with a sex crime.

And so we need to help the community to understand that a registry is a valuable tool, but it's not a complete safety net where they don't have to worry about others in the community, as well. So talking to the public about that. Educating them about that. The only danger is not the stranger down the street or the person registered at this address, but that there are others, as well.

That people on the registry are there for a variety of things. We think about offender and oftentimes, the worst case scenario comes to mind, like what happened with Megan Kanka. A stranger abduction, sexual assault, and murder of a child, there's not much worse you can fathom in your mind. And some people think, well, that's all the sex offenders.

But we know that people on the registry are there for a variety of offenses and have done a variety of things. And I'm not, in any way, minimizing any of those things, but we want the public to understand the variation in the types of offenders and offenses.

But that there is a risk, and what is that risk? And so they need to know information about what type of offense the offender has committed in order to be able to take that appropriate action.

But that the registration is a tool. It is not, in itself, an intervention. It doesn't change offender behavior. It was not designed to do that. It is a list of offenders for law enforcement purposes for future investigation in criminal activity and for public awareness that people are there. But it's not going to 100%-- it's not like OK, we got a registry. We got a SORNA program. Done deal.

I actually was talking with a tribal partner out there, and the community got really mad. Because one of the offenders on the registry re-offended. And they were blaming the SORNA program. Like, see,

this thing doesn't work. And, again, that's not the purpose. And so we want to educate the purpose of the SORNA program. And that there's nothing-- if somebody wants to do it, again, a registry or supervision or treatment or any of those things don't necessarily change.

Let me talk about juveniles for a couple minutes. I think it's really important to have a discussion about juveniles. I know that the juvenile population matters greatly in tribal communities. And so to think about what your policy is related to the registration and notification of juveniles.

The SMART Office has made a number of changes over the years to how we handle the registration and notification on juveniles. Initially, the expectations for juveniles were pretty much, the same, with a few exceptions, as with adults. And over time, that's been modified, including no longer requiring that we put that information on the website and do active notification.

And so to think about, what is your tribe's policy related to registering and notifying on juveniles? How do you provide information to the public about that to show and to get them information-- accurate information-- about registered juveniles? And that juveniles who commit sexual offenses are not synonymous and completely 100% similar to adult sex offenders.

And maybe that there could be some level of understanding and support. Not that we condone or justify or excuse the behavior of a juvenile, but some support for a juvenile who gets some treatment, is making some good choices. Because the prognosis for a juvenile is much better than it is for an adult. And then that they come back and getting that opportunity to reintegrate.

Paul, I'm going to invite you into the conversation, because I've been talking for a few minutes here. Do you have any thoughts related to juvenile registry, as far as Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes?

Well, I know for our tribe, Chris, when we were putting our code together and our policies and procedures, we just are kind of handling the adults and the juveniles in the same manner. But I think a big part of that reason is because we don't have juvenile offenders at this time.

But it just takes one person to know or to be a relative of a juvenile offender. And I could see all those things coming-- I could see the community maybe at that time wanting to approach it differently. And I know that under SORNA, we would have some flexibility there to make that change.

So it is in the back of my mind, if we are going to have to change that at some point. But right now, it hasn't come up, yet. So at this time, we would treat the adults and the juvenile in the same manner, as far as them coming in the register and being on the public website.

Thank you, Paul. And so I would really encourage you to become familiar if there are variations in your tribe, in terms of your registration and notification policy on juveniles. And to think about how you might handle notification on juveniles going forward, given that there has been some flexibility that's been provided. The SMART Office received a great deal of feedback from juvenile justice advocates and experts out there around the likelihood of change for juveniles, and they've, very graciously, made some adjustments in their policy.

And so I'm not advocating for no registration or no notification on juveniles. I think you could do that in select cases, depending upon the juvenile case. But just to, maybe, have those discussions and think about them. So that that way, Paul-- for example-- in Cheyenne and Arapaho, you've had that discussion before a juvenile shows up-- maybe.

But Paul's right. Usually when policy issues arise is when something happens and somebody's impacted by a policy or a code or the policy and procedure. And then, all of a sudden, people want to make adjustments. It's so much harder to make those adjustments after the fact, rather than before the fact.

So thank you for sharing, Paul. I appreciate that.

So how do you conduct, specifically, these community notification meetings? And what do you do? So I'm going to walk through some dos and don'ts and best practices related to this. There's been a number of folks who have done this over the years.

I told the story during the last training, so I won't tell it, again, in terms of Washington state, and how they came and settled upon some of these things based on some mistakes that were made. And they readily acknowledge that there were some mistakes made. We've done these types of meetings in our jurisdiction, as well, and we've made mistakes, as well. So unfortunately, a lot of it is just trial and error and what works and that kind of things. But hopefully, at least you can learn a little bit from some of the mistakes that others have made.

So making sure that you have a sized facility to fit the audience is really crucial. There's nothing worse than people standing, people being uncomfortable, people being cramped. That's just going to make them cranky. And we don't want-- this is already a tough enough topic, let alone making people cranky. So making sure we have the right size.

And so a community space, like some type of a community hall. Churches can be really good in that regard. Oftentimes they have plenty of space.

School auditoriums, you have to be a little careful about that. Obviously you don't want a school activity going on during this period of time. But if you can get a time when nothing else is going on at the school, oftentimes the schools have the biggest spaces within a community. So thinking about that can be really, really helpful.

Thinking about a time to do this. In our experience, Tuesday through Thursday is much better than either Monday, Friday, or a weekend. People-- their weekends are theirs, and they don't want to, maybe, be as bothered as much by this stuff.

And 7:00 PM or something after work for people that are working. If you set it in the middle of the day, you're disenfranchising a number of folks. And so making sure that you have a time that the most community members can attend and thinking about the day of the week is really, really important.

Make sure that the facility is set up beforehand. Nothing worse than when you walk in right at the time of the meeting, public standing around, and the chairs and the tables are over in the corner, and you're quickly having to get everything set up and get everything going. So allow yourself some time. You don't need that pressure. You don't need that stress.

Set up in advance. Make sure everything is put together. Test your equipment to make sure that it works. All of that kind of stuff.

Have a handout table. Have a sign-in sheet. We always ask people to sign-in. If they refuse to sign, I'm not going to fight with him about signing in. But it'd be nice to know who's there.

Ask them to give their email address, too. Maybe that's a way you can get them on your email list, as well.

Making sure that everybody's going to be there and that they show up and show up a little bit early so that you're ready. Because nothing worse than starting a presentation and then one of the speakers is coming and running in late or something like that.

And then if you're going to be doing something from a technology-based way, making sure that there is that technology. That it works. Trying it out. Doing a practice run.

Paul and I, when we do these types of trainings, we always do practice runs, even though we've done this a number of times. We have a special person who helps us out at Fox Valley. And this person is great about giving us testing and repeating over and over, the things that we need to learn and

remember. Because doing this stuff is not easy to do it by this technology-based stuff.

Advertise your meeting. Get the meeting out there. Nothing worse than you held a meeting and someone said I never heard about that. I'd have come. Why didn't you tell me? And so here's a variety of different ways that you can do this in terms of using a community newspaper or radio, social media.

Going to other tribal events is a great way of getting information out about the SORNA program and advertising things. So if there's some type of a gathering, some type of a community event of some sort, going to that. Having a table, providing information.

When kids were going to school-- I don't know if they will be going to school in any of our communities in the fall-- but certainly, we can send information home to parents that way. And then using parent organizations, like PTA, can be great ways of getting this information out.

Advertise it on your TTSORS site. Hey, we're going to be doing this community meeting. Come here, register here-- whatever.

Other types of things to think about-- making sure you have enough handouts. Again, nothing worse than, oh, sorry we're out of handouts. People feel like, well, you're holding out on me. You're keeping this information from me. Tends to make the crowd, again, a little cranky, and we don't want a cranky crowd. So better to have too many than not enough. We can always recycle extras or things like that.

Or if we're doing some type of an online platform, how are we going to send that out to people? Are we going to email them the information? Or how are they going to get that information? So thinking about that, and making sure that people have that information in their hands.

Usually what we do is that we have the meeting, and then we provide the handouts about-- if we're doing it on a specific offender-- we then provide that information to them at that point in time. And so that way, they will come to the meeting and get the information. And then we give them-- typically what they really want is who's the sex offender that lives in my neighborhood, if they're doing an offender-specific meeting?

So it's, like, come. Listen to what we have to say. OK, now here's your information, kind of, thing.

Consider child care. I think, you don't really probably want a bunch of children flying around when you're doing this type of a meeting. It can be uncomfortable. I've had teenagers who have come to these meetings and have been interested and can handle it, if they're mature. But certainly, little

children tend to make a lot of noise, and the information that they're being provided is probably not age appropriate.

Here's one of the things we learned the hard way, is at first, we used a microphone. And we had people-- we gave it to them and let them ask us questions. And what we found was that people were using that as a platform to grandstand a little bit. And to say things-- some of the stuff that we really wished they wouldn't say.

And so we have now gotten to the point where we use index cards for questions at the end. Fill out your question, and you give it to us. Then we go through them. And if it's something that's an off-the-wall question, we won't answer it during the public meeting. And we'll say we didn't have time for everybody's question or we didn't answer everybody's question. If you still have a question, come up and talk to us.

Making sure that the sound system-- nothing worse than people not being able to hear you. We can't hear you! So making sure your sound system has been tested.

And making sure that you have counselors and particularly, victim reps on-site to be able to intervene. I've never done one of these meetings where someone hasn't come up after the meeting and said I was sexually assaulted when I was a child or last year or 10 years ago, and I've never told anybody about it. And then they look at you like, OK, what should we do now? And so here, let me take you to someone who can provide you with some resources. So making sure that you have that covered. And then there's plenty of other things that you could think about as you go along.

Having a team approach for this community notification process can be really, really helpful. So bringing together a group of tribal professionals who can do this type of a presentation. I would not recommend you doing a community notification meeting on your own. So having different roles present and establishing a formal team that can be like a community notification team can be a really helpful model.

And this team can be really helpful beyond just community notification for other types of coordination related to the monitoring and accountability of registrants, as well. But certainly having this team approach with this. And making sure that law enforcement is there, prosecutor if you have that, a treatment provider, corrections. You see the people on the screen there that you want to have present.

And if you don't have those people in your tribal agency, maybe looking to some outside resource for

that. Or is there someone else that can cover another piece? I understand that not everybody has every piece, but making sure that these pieces are covered.

And then having each role cover the topic relative to what they're doing. So myself, as a former treatment provider, I would cover about the sex offender recidivism and treatment issues and things like that. And then rely on some of my partners, say, for the supervision component or law enforcement-- things like that.

So bringing people together. Talking about what you're going to do at the meeting. Planning it in advance. Knowing what everybody is going to say. Who's doing what. How it's going to go.

I think you want to look very polished, like this meeting is being run smoothly. Nothing worse than everybody looking at each other-- you going to cover that? You going to cover that? . I think you want to present that perception of confidence to the community as part of this process. So making sure everybody knows who's going to talk.

How long-- I've had speakers that have tended to be a little long-winded. You want to make sure everybody knows what they're going to be talking about and for how long. You don't want these meetings to go on forever. That just heightens anxiety with people, so having a set time. I think, usually, 60 to 90 minutes, something like that, is really ideal in terms of doing this.

If you hear somebody say something that you don't think is right, unless it's a critical community safety issue or victim safety issue, put that in your pocket and talk to them about it afterwards. You don't want to front off somebody during a meeting like this. It kind of destroys their credibility.

Using a podium or some type of thing where people can see you. Using a PowerPoint presentation. There are great PowerPoint presentations out there. If you're interested in that, you can certainly contact Fox Valley, and we'd be glad to help you with some of those resources.

So in terms of what to do, I've talked about getting there early, setup the room. Or if it's a virtual platform, making sure that the technology is working and things like that.

Display a photo montage. What that's talking about is we oftentimes will show a picture or a poster board that has a picture of a bunch of registrants all different ages, genders-- things like that. They're not the ones in your community, per se. That's just a group of people. And we use that to make the point that offenders, registrants can really be anyone. And so you can't know a sex offender just by seeing them, unfortunately. And so that's the message that we send when we talk about this photo montage.

One of the things that we always stress is start the meeting on time. If you're running late and people are getting antsy, I think that can just make it that much harder. So even if people are still filing in, signing in, or whatever, people who made the commitment to get there on time, you need to honor that, and make sure that you can do that, and start the meeting when they're ready.

So here are the specific components of the meeting-- a blueprint of a meeting. You don't have to follow this exactly, but this is one way to do that.

Introducing the people who are present. Letting them know that you're qualified in what you do so that they have some faith and confidence in you. I can't tell you how many times people come in very anxious about an offender moving to the community. And then when they find out that there are all these very experienced and qualified professionals who are working in this situation to help keep them safe, that they feel reassured by that.

Providing them with the history of the law related to sex offenders and registration can be very helpful. I wouldn't go too far with that. I know sometimes lawyers can go way down that rabbit hole, and I'm not suggesting that. But I'm certainly suggesting that getting that information out to the public so that they understand and know that can be very, very helpful.

So talking about, who is a sex offender? That the fact that they have to have a conviction, and then that they are required to register as a result of that.

What is the extent? We will frequently tell them about the extent of the number of registrants both nationally, as well as within the state, as well as within the tribal jurisdiction, just so that people have an understanding. I don't know if any of you are sitting there wondering, well, how many registered sex offenders are there out there? You might be surprised.

I think we're approaching-- I think, we're over 900,000 registrants within this country at this point. I would think within the next few years, we'll have topped a million. But, again, keeping in mind that there are many other sex offenders out there who have never been identified and who are not on that registry. But I think the public is often astounded to find out how many registrants.

Or maybe if you've googled your address-- I would hope everybody here has done that-- and seeing how many are near you, They're everywhere, if you will. So helping the public to understand that.

But also, that what we want from the public is not to harass. Not to engage in vigilantism or things like that. So we use this as an opportunity, again, to guide, how we want them to respond, and what

we don't want them to do.

I remember I had one time when we were doing a meeting, and a guy raises his hand-- and that was when we were still giving people the mic. Big mistake-- and he says, if the sex offender comes on my property, can I shoot him? And we're like no, sir. We're not advocating for violence and things like that.

So, again, emphasizing-- don't take the law into your own hands. The law enforcement agencies-- and we oftentimes want officers to be there in uniform-- there's a certain authority that comes with law enforcement officers being there in uniform-- to keep the peace. And to let them know, hey, we got this.

So what are we asking them? But what do we need for the offender in terms of being able to come back to the community, and to be able to have employment, and to be able to have a place to live, and to reintegrate back into the community? If the offender's on supervision, which many of them aren't, but if they are, what are the terms and conditions of supervision?

And then providing some specific information. If this is an offender-specific situation, you're going to give information about that specific offender. To be very careful not to violate confidentiality related to the victim, but providing this information about the offender. What is their pattern of offending? Their history of offending? What is their circumstance? Where might the public encounter this person? And then if there are any type of restrictions on where they can live within the community-- letting the public know.

And then, again, what can citizens do to protect themselves? And providing resources. Having a hand out table with information from NCMEC or NSOPW can be great.

And then having that opportunity for questions and answers at the end-- again, reasonable good questions. And I find that the vast majority of the questions tend to be very good. And so we will do the questions.

Some people say I'll stay there until all questions are answered. My feeling is that at some point, you have to cut that off. I would not recommend going too long related to that. But you can choose how to do that, if you want.

So Paul, is there anything that you would add in terms of community notification before we move into the panel discussion and turn it over to Joann?

No. Just, maybe, just an encouragement to the tribes. One of the first slides you touched on, Chris, was about the COVID situation. And there are definitely some virtual platforms out there that everything that you just discussed-- like on the meeting blueprint-- one can do most of those things still virtually and be effective. And so, I would just encourage tribes out there to do that. And like you said, as soon as we can meet in person, continue that way. So everything you shared is right on. So I think that's it, Chris.

Thank you, Paul. I appreciate that. So we're going to turn it back over to our wonderful moderator, Joann. And I think Joann is going to walk us through some questions here.

Thank you, Chris. Thank you, Paul.

We will now have a panel discussion with Chris and Paul, addressing the questions you see displayed on your screen. As Chris and Paul respond to these questions, if you have additional questions you would like to ask, please enter them in the question box, and we will pose them during the question and answer period, which is next.

In regard to best practices, how has your community reacted to community notification?

I'll start, Paul, and then, maybe, you can jump in. This is Chris.

And I have actually been pleasantly surprised by how well the community has typically reacted to something like this. Usually they come in very anxious, very scared, maybe very angry, as well, that an offender has moved into their neighborhood. Or that there are offenders in the community who were allowed out of prison and things like that.

But usually when they hear what we have to say and what we're doing and how they can work with us, generally, I have found that the community is pretty supportive of what's happening. And I've actually had some people even speak out. Sometimes friends or family members of the registrant will come and speak on their behalf and things like that. And initially, they're afraid to speak because they don't want to be viewed negatively.

Well, for us, it's been a little bit different. So, for example, we've had where we've done community meetings and, like, almost nobody shows up. We may just have just a few people. And then we've had other events where it will draw, like, 100 people.

And so, in those situations, I think both of them, we tried to advertise. So I really can't say what the difference was in those. But I will say this-- that we still try to get-- I don't know if it's like a bang for

our buck-- but we'll still try to make something come out of even if no one shows up. And so usually, for us, that will be us doing a media press release on it or we usually invite the newspaper to come cover any events that we do.

And so whether it's the tribal newspaper that does it or if I'm coming back and writing a press release on it, I'll make it sound like the most awesomest meeting ever. And it truly is, we just didn't have a lot of attendance. So whereas to maybe that day, I only was effective in reaching seven people, through that press release or through that coverage, when it hits their platform or Facebook or just a hard copy of a paper, by that time, it really does reach into the thousands of people who are receiving that information.

And so I would just tell any tribe who's done this in the past and maybe you don't get the impact you wanted just off of a meeting, not to stop there. To turn that into-- turn it into something. Make it be beneficial and get a bang out of it. So sharing that information, I think, is really important. So I think that's my answer on that question.

I just was saying that I think, generally, the community has been very supportive and has reacted very favorably when we've done these types of things. And appreciate the information that we provide. And I've had people come up to me afterwards who are maybe friends and family of the registrant, just saying thank you for that. So I've had actually, a surprisingly good reaction to doing this, even though they were angry and anxious when we first started.

Thank you. The next question that we have for you has to do with whether it's preferred or preferential to do offender specific or offender general notification.

And I can start with that one, and then, Paul, you can jump in. I've done traditionally, both types. I actually probably prefer the offender general, rather than specific. Because I think if you're just focusing on one offender, it can maybe make the public think, well, that's the person we should be the most concerned about. Rather than talking about the SORNA program and all the registrants, in general.

But my experience has been, unfortunately, that people are more likely to come to a meeting if they know that this is personally impacting them in their neighbor. So I think both could work.

The offender specific, you just have to be a little bit more careful about how you're handling that. But generally, I like more of the offender general notification process. Paul?

Well, I'm with you, Chris. I think that that's the best because what's really going to help the community

members, I think, is that they have a wide range of knowledge that's touched on when it's more general. But I will say, at least for us, that doesn't mean we won't use-- if it's perfect timing and there's a buzz in the community about the offender, it doesn't mean that we won't use that buzz or that motivation that people have there to bring people together. And so we'll use that and maybe that timing that they're back in the community. We'll use that, we'll piggyback off of that, but once we have the community members in the event and the meeting, usually we're taking a more general approach.

And then, a lot of times, we find that when we end with the questions and answers, a lot of times, what we discussed has helped through that and there's not as many questions and answers. But if there is and if it's specific to the offender, we'll answer that in the best way that we can and provided we're not releasing information that we're not supposed to. And so I think it's helpful, but I prefer more of the general sense.

Thank you. So we do have a question on-- it's pretty general-- and I'm actually going to ask two that I think we can work with it, which is, what has worked well for you? But what are some lessons that you've learned along the way?

I can start out.

Please.

So what's worked well for us, I think, it's been just sharing the information in this general format. I think, maybe, it's that we take that same show on the road. But what has made, I think, it effective for us is for us to target one department or one program that we're trying to share the information with.

For example, we may take this same presentation to just the HR or personnel department at the casinos. And I love it because they're able to ask questions that are specific to their needs. And so, again, this is not a huge 100, 200 people in there. This may be room with 30 people. But I find that is very effective.

And then later on, if we put a process in place or if we're educating them on notifying the registry whenever there's a new employee that's hired that's a sex offender, I find that it just works. It just really goes and enforces that process that we have in place.

Same thing when we approached the legislators. So, again, it's not 100 people. It's just 30 people, 25. But we're getting big results from what's discussed.

So to me, that both has worked well for us, and it's been a lesson learned. Because-- like I said-- at first, many times we would try to have these big community meetings. And even if we bought food, sometimes it was a hit and miss. Sometimes we had a few people and sometimes we had a lot. But I think targeting these different programs, I think, has been very fruitful for our registry.

So I want to say that working with the community I think has worked well. I think initially, I had a great deal of apprehension about working with the community on this stuff and having these conversations. And certainly, I've had some unfortunate responses, like I described to you before.

I remember talking one time prior to one of these community meetings where there was a radio announcer, and he was advertising this meeting. And he was interviewing me about this, and he got really, really mad at me. Like, you want me to talk to my daughter about this stuff?

And I'm like yes, sir. I do. I think it's much better that you talk to your daughter about this, rather than, say, an offender talking to your daughter about this.

And so I think once the community gets past their initial reluctance to have these conversations, I have found the community to be very thoughtful about it, generally speaking, and wanting to help. Support is surprisingly supportive of the offender, and yet, still wanting to make sure that their loved ones and themselves are safe. And so I think that it has worked very well to have these conversations and discussions in a very structured way, I think, within communities.

And I've done these in larger communities and smaller communities, and in smaller communities, I think that you tend to get a very large group of people that come out. Again, they're very interested. And so you can seize on that-- kind of like what Paul was talking about-- and build on that.

And in terms of the lessons learned, I think figuring out how you can have this conversation in a way that doesn't increase anxiety. I think for a while, we might have been providing too much information, and I think it overwhelmed people. Or giving them too much latitude. I think they-- you're the expert, and you're there to provide that information and to reassure them. But you're also asking for their partnership in this process. And so that's been my experience related to that.

So the next question that we have is one that I think a lot of our attendees are going to have on their mind. And it's this-- how have registrants and victims and survivors reacted to community notification? Paul?

Sure. Well, Chris touched on the multidisciplinary team. And we have a multidisciplinary team, and we

meet about quarterly. But I think just having that in place is so important.

And, of course, you're going to have law enforcement and the prosecutor-- whoever-- but it's so important that you also have a representative from a victim's advocate or domestic violence coordinator. I think having that individual present to kind of be the voice for some of the victims and being able to share some of the concerns that they have I think has been so helpful for us.

So when we're doing a community event, it's in unison with this group. And so we're always hearing from their perspective. And we try to address any issues that we think would come up, we try to address them beforehand so they're not an issue the day of the event. So that's been our approach, is to always bring a victim's advocate along.

It doesn't mean that someone doesn't attend who isn't a victim or that all victims are notified when they come to the community event. But when that happens, I think that the part that-- again, Chris really shared and gave some insight on-- about having resources available or a counselor available and being able to make a referral to anyone who may need those types of services. So that's my take on that.

And Joann, if I could just add a couple of things. I, first of all, agree with everything that Paul said.

I think registrants and victim survivors need to know that this is happening. There needs to be some awareness on their part. I would not recommend that they attend. I've had some registrants who want to show up and explain themselves or defend themselves, and I wouldn't recommend that. So I think just making sure that they know.

But then once, I think, registrants find out what's going to be happening, I think they're reassured that we're not going to be turning the community against them. And victims and survivors know that safety precautions are going to be put in place. So I think that, generally speaking, I think that they have reacted pretty well. I think the registrants continue to be very nervous about an event like this.

Thank you, Chris and Paul. So the last one that we want to pose to you as our panel has to do with juvenile offenders, and it's a question that we get fairly often. What is your tribe's policy on notification about juvenile offenders? Paul, I'll couch this to you. But Chris, obviously with your extensive experience, if you would not mind sharing some of what you have come across in your practice. Thank you.

Sure. Well, I think I shared a little bit earlier that our tribe's take early on was just not to differentiate between the adult and juvenile offender. And so we're processing the same. A tier one, tier two, and

tier three for us would all be on the registry website.

The only other thing is we have in place a way or a format for there to be some reentry services or some navigating of services to our clients. And so I know that we would have effective resources available for a juvenile sex offender.

So our process for that now is when we do our registry, we're also making a referral or at least presenting an application to what, for us, is a healing to reentry program. And so then that referral or application goes to our healing to wellness coordinator, who does both like a drug court and helps people through reentry.

So I know that whether she does an initial intake and then is able to make a referral out to programs such as education, or we have an employment and training program, or if the person needs more intensive treatment, we can make that referral out here. At the University of Oklahoma, they have a service that provides treatment for juveniles.

So I know that even though we don't treat the adult and juvenile offender any different as far as the registry is concerned, I know that if we were to have an offender who was a juvenile that we would be able to make appropriate referrals for that individual. Or be able to provide them services within the tribe. And so to that extent, I think that that's a great thing that our tribes can do and an infrastructure that our registry program built.

Thanks, Paul. My experience has always been so positive. I've been to many tribal communities over the year, probably some of the ones of yours out there. I'm sure I've been to some of your communities. And I'm so appreciative and privileged to be welcomed into your communities, and to be able to talk about some of these things.

And in my experience, tribal communities oftentimes, I think, really prioritize juveniles, and recognize that the youth are the future. And so seeing that we want to make sure that youth have every opportunity to rehabilitate, to reintegrate, to become a productive and successful member of a community. And so I've often seen tribal communities who, very much, want to have this discussion about juveniles and to think about juveniles differently.

Again, community safety and victim protection are always a concern. But particularly with juveniles, I think there is this sensitivity and awareness and the need for juveniles to have this opportunity to correct themselves and their behavior. And so I have found that oftentimes tribal communities want to do things differently with juveniles, as compared to, say, an adult repeat offender or something like

that. So, again, not working in a tribal community myself, but certainly in working with tribal communities, that's been some of the experience and some of what I've heard, Joann.

Chris and Paul, thank you so much. Thank you to both, again, for the excellent presentation and discussion today. And for sharing your insight and knowledge with us.

We are now moving into the question and answer portion of our webinar. If you, as our attendees, have any questions for our group, feel free to enter them in the question box, typically located at the right side of your screen. You may need to click the orange arrow to open the dialog box.

Paul and Chris, I know that we did receive a question earlier in regard to the community notification piece. And the question is this-- would you recommend a survey to be provided for the effectiveness of the community notification meeting?

I'll start, Paul. There was a strong interest on the part of their tribal leadership to get a sense for what the community wanted. And not wanting to go down a road in terms of developing any kinds of programs or interventions or educational processes without community buy-in. And so I think the idea of a survey or getting feedback from community members can be very, very helpful to be able to know whether there's broad support.

Although, I think it's also important to keep in mind that some people may be reluctant to want to do this, and yet, still might benefit. So if people say no, we don't want to do this or whatever, at least consider that there could still be some advantages in this. But certainly, tribal leadership is very sensitive to wanting to make sure that there's community support for initiatives. And we don't want, in any way, for the SORNA program to get sideways within a tribal community.

So I think to get some support initially and get some feedback, then provide some initiative and some motivation to be able to move forward. Paul, anything that you would add related to that?

No, I think it's a good idea. I guess, the only thing just is more with developing a survey to make sure that you're gauging for the questions that you really intend to have answers for. And I would shy away from anything that would do with a specific offender or anything like that.

But definitely if it's more like, if you're trying to gauge for what additions can be made to the code or to the policy, that would be beneficial. Or how people would like to receive community notification. Gauging those types of things I think would be really important. And just going through the filters and making sure that the questions say what you want them to say. All that kind of stuff. I think that's a

great idea.

Thank you. The next question that we do have for you is very important because I know as you have gone on your travels and in visiting and assisting our tribal partners, it's something that comes up fairly regularly. The question is this-- how do I get buy-in from my agency and leadership to begin community notification?

I can tackle that. Well, I think that that's such an important part-- representing a tribe, depending. Some leadership changes every year, some every four years. And it's so important that the registry-- you just can never get tired of reintroducing yourself, reintroducing your whole program, and reintroducing the purpose of the program.

I think when people understand the why you exist and the purpose behind it, they're more inclined to be open to different forms of community notification. So that would be my encouragement or the way I would encourage a tribe is to present to the leadership why you exist. And I think that if you can do that and if they can come to an understanding about that, that they may be open.

But some of those things, like the community website that's there, having people subscribe by email-- I know the community notification part should be in one's code. So to that extent, one can do that form of community notification and push that out. Even if your leadership isn't all the way behind you, unless they amend the code or something. But then they wouldn't be compliant with SORNA.

So I would just really do it for the approach of-- I would take the approach of just trying to build that relationship with leadership, and then maybe explore options. If they're not into community meetings, maybe they would be more open to having an article on the website or just posting a notice to register at different buildings. So there's different avenues, different platforms that it can be done through. And so I would just explore those options that they are most open to.

And Joann, if I could just-- the only thing I would add-- I agree 100% with what Paul said-- is just that I think to collect information about what you're doing in the SORNA program and having that information available to leadership. It's important for leadership to support the SORNA program and the community notification initiative.

So certainly keeping stats on how many people come to meetings. Maybe even offering some type of a survey after the fact about did people find it helpful or not. That can be really great data to be able to take-- and I know data, dirty word, a little bit. But I think to collect a little bit of data can be really, really helpful.

When funding is scarce, you want to show the value of your program. And I think community notification is one of those values. It's a public-facing side of a value of your program. Registering offenders that's not as visible to the public other than when they go to the website. But this is something where you're actually interacting with the public. And so if there's some initial support from your agency and leadership to do it, then maybe collecting some information about how it's going. And then maybe you can adjust yourself accordingly as you go along.

Thank you. We do have one more question that I would like to get in that did come from our attendee. And the question is a follow-up to the hotline question that was posed earlier.

Still curious about having a sex offender hotline that would be similar to a whistleblower hotline to gain knowledge from the community about particular actions, concerns, et cetera. And maybe the greater question here is-- either you, Paul, or you, Chris-- are aware of anything like that being implemented or utilized as a tool in supplementing a program such as SORNA?

I can start on that one, Paul, and then you can jump in. I know that many times, TTSORS websites will have an email place where a community member can write in. And that way, they don't necessarily have to identify themselves, either. And so I think that email is one way to do that, where people can send in hey, I've got concerns about this offender. That he's not living at the address he's registered at or something like that.

But we also encourage, obviously, that if people want to do a direct outreach, whether it's to the SORNA program directly or to law enforcement, to provide concerns and things like that directly. So I think to have some type of a phone number that people could call. It probably won't be staffed 24/7, but people could leave a message and then somebody could call them back.

But I have found that some of the best information comes from the public, in terms of registering compliance and things like that. So either an email hotline kind of a situation or a phone number that people can call can be really helpful. Paul?

Exactly. And Chris, you said it. That information can be found on the TTSORS website, as far as one can put the phone number that they want, tips to come in through. And/or email or fax-- that information one can customize on their TTSORS website to include that.

But no, I think that that's a great idea. And like at our tribe, we don't have a hotline, but we do give out our registry information. And we've received tips in the past from the community members. Some anonymous-- they don't want to give their name-- and some who are willing to give you their name

and information and how they came about the information.

But those tips have always been-- they've been helpful because they don't always lead to yes, this person's a registered offender. We're going to serve him a notice to register. They don't all lead to that, and that's OK. Because some of them, we're able to take the time with that community member and explain to them why that individual's not on the registry. Kind of going back to what we talked about earlier with the public website versus some of the not short comings, but some of the areas it doesn't cover.

And we're able to give that information to the community and build the relationship with them, and them feel like we're someone who they can call or consult with in the future, as well. So I think that's my take on that one.

Excellent. Thank you, again, Paul and Chris. And most sincere thanks for providing us with your knowledge and expertise.

This concludes the question and answer portion of the webinar. If you are interested in attending additional training, please visit www.ncjtc.org for a listing of upcoming training opportunities or to review our on demand online training. Thank you, most sincerely, for joining us today, and have a wonderful day.