

# The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children: Resources and Assistance for American Indian and Alaska Native Communities - Webinar Transcript

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Welcome, everyone. We are happy you joined us today. Our webinar, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Resources and Assistance for American Indian and Alaska Native Communities will begin shortly. Hello my name is Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya, project coordinator with NCJTC, and I will be moderating for you today. Before we begin the presentation, there are some items I need to go over. This project was supported by a grant awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, US Department of Justice, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, US Department of Justice.

The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the US Department of Justice. Thank you again for joining us today. Joy, I will not turn the time over to you.

Thank you, Val. And Thank you so much to you and Fox Valley for putting this together and inviting NCMEC to talk about our resources. My name is Joy Paluska, and I'm a program manager for special projects at NCMEC's Missing Children Division. My work includes our outreach related to disaster preparedness and response, children on the autism spectrum, and children of color and indigenous children. Shannon?

Thank you, Joy. My name is Shannon Traore. It is such a honor to be here today with all of you, and we really appreciate you inviting NCMEC to speak about what I'm going to cover, which is family related services and how we can seek out advocacy resources and providers who can help support families through many of the issues that we encounter at NCMEC every day. I'm the program manager on our Family Advocacy team, and I'm really excited to share with you some of the resources we have. Sam?

Thank you, Joy and Shannon. My name is Samantha Sahl. I supervise the Child Sex Trafficking Recovery Services Team at NCMEC, and I'll be telling you a lot more about that team this afternoon. Thank you all so much for having us here. We're really excited to share these resources with you, and back to you, Joy.

Thanks. So today, I will provide a quick history of our organization and our mission. I will cover some of the data we have observed in Native American and Indigenous communities. Shannon, Sam, and I will share NCMEC's free resources and partnerships, and then talk about some of the coordinated support services that we believe may be helpful to you.

By way of background, NCMEC is a non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Alexandria, Virginia. Our organization was founded in 1984 by John and Reve Walsh after their six-year-old son Adam was abducted from a shopping mall in Florida. He was later found murdered 100 miles from his home. His tragic death and that of other missing children during the early 1980s, including the Atlanta child murders, inspired a movement to create a coordinated national response to the issues of missing and exploited children.

We are congressionally authorized to perform 15 specific duties related to missing and exploited children, but our programs go far beyond that thanks to our public-private partnership model supported by a wide range of private, non-profit, and other government agency partners. Over the past three decades, we've grown from a handful of staff to more than 350 employees with hundreds of volunteers and offices in New York, Florida, Texas, and Virginia.

When you hear me refer to the ADAM Program or Team ADAM, these are named in honor of Adam Walsh. His family has devoted their lives to helping communities, and his brother Kyle is a NCMEC staff member and child advocate alongside Mr. and Mrs. Walsh who remain active participants of our board. Everyone at the national center is working to fulfill our mission to find missing children, reduce sexual exploitation, and prevent future victimization.

Like the folks tuning into today's webinar, we are motivated by hope. The NCMEC database uses the category American Indian when in-taking reports of missing children. When sharing data about these communities for presentations, we use the following language interchangeably, depending on the context, Native American and Indigenous communities, tribal law enforcement, and Indian country typically in reference to AMBER alert.

You can see from the slide that the non-family abductions or stranger danger that some of us grew up with is a tiny fraction of our missing child cases. Most missing Native American children reported to NCMEC are in a category that we call endangered runaways. And most are missing from state care. Dr. Sahl will talk about some of our current efforts in this space.

This data, in terms of endangered runaways and the other categories that we see on the slide, is fairly consistent with other racial and ethnic groups that are reported to NCMEC. You can see I'm covering here 2013 to 2018. We also have our data from 2020. And in that data, Native American children represented about 2% of the over 29,000 missing children reported to NCMEC. Similar, to Black children, Native American children are disproportionately represented in our missing incidents when compared to their representation in the US Census where they're about 8% of the population.

I mentioned that an area that I support is children on the autism spectrum. We just completed a 10-year analysis of these missing children, and Native American children comprise 4% of the 23 actively missing child cases in terms of our children on the autism spectrum. While we believe it's important to share and study data, I want to note that these are children, not just statistics or data points to us. Each and every one is a missing child that we are looking for.

This slide talks about the key findings of a report that we did over a 10-year period just looking at Native American children. We may have shared this, and if not, the report is located on our website [missingkids.org](http://missingkids.org). I just want to highlight, as I've done in red, a few things. The first is 98% of these cases were resolved when NCMEC was engaged, which is why we are so emphatic about sharing the resources that are available to families and law enforcement when we're searching for missing children.

And also, just we know a lot of these children are children who are missing from care, and they are endangered runaways. And I'm going to talk on the next slide about the different danger points that we see and we track. But the vast majority have at least one endangerment. And also just in the middle, there are unique challenges for law enforcement and tribal law enforcement. A lot of folks on this call already know them, the jurisdictional issues. So those are unique to Native American and Indian country communities.

So here, I cut this right from our report. This is a slide right from the report that I mentioned, and it shows all of the different endangerment that we track and see within the data that we're looking at. And the number one endangerment is a previous missing incident. And what we know is each time a child goes missing, they become more vulnerable to child sex trafficking, which is why, as an organization, we're really trying to look at ways that we can prevent missing incidents in the first place, and at a minimum reduce repeat missing incidents. OK.

Next, I'm going to talk about our different resources and partnerships. So if you leave today with anything, leave with our phone number in your brain, 1-800-THE-LOST. It is the way that you can get in touch with any of us that are on this call today or to report a missing child or just to be in contact with NCMEC. That is the nerve center of NCMEC. We are 24 by seven. There is someone always answering the phone. We have offices in both Florida and Virginia, and that's where we take our reports of missing children and exploited children through our cyber tip line.

And we're a secondary AMBER Alert distributor so we also take phone calls if folks have seen the AMBER Alert, and they want to call in a tip, we get those calls. We also have bilingual call specialists, but we also have the availability of over 180 languages that we can provide, including Native American and Indigenous languages.

So how does NCMEC help? Once we take that phone call, our call center specialist is going to start working with our case management services and our case management team to provide a variety of the resources to either law enforcement or the legal guardian or family that's contacted NCMEC. These folks are, again, available 24/7. We have regular business hours, of course, but there is always a case manager who is available if we get a call. Critical missing child, 2:00 in the morning, we have a case manager that's going to get called and start engaging. So again, 24 by seven operation.

And we provide support, like I said, to families and to law enforcement. We start to create and disseminate our posters, which I'll definitely go into detail about, but to help generate our leads and engage the public in our missing child searches. So a lot of these things-- Shannon's going to talk about our family advocacy services, and I'm going to go into a little bit more detail about our Team ADAM folks and our federal liaisons and our work in long-term missing cases. But this just gives you a big picture of all the different work that our case management team is helping to coordinate and how NCMEC can help.

So for our poster distribution, you can see right here, we have over 200 photo partners. I want to say before I kind of go into detail, there on our website, we have a capability to search Native American missing child posters specifically on the site. You do need to select American Indian or biracial in order to do that search. And when I looked on our site yesterday, we had 42 American Indian missing children, 389 biracial missing children, and 350 unidentified children.

I'll going to a little more detail about our work with unidentified children momentarily, but just anyone on the phone can participate in our posters. Right? Like, you can look at them on our website. You see up in the left hand corner are ADAM which is the automated delivery of alerts on missing children. That's through a partnership with LexisNexis and that's geo-targeted, so if you sign up for those, you will get missing child alerts for your zip code. So the child may be missing from your zip code or we may believe they may be in your zip code, maybe they we believe they've traveled or been taken. Right? So incredible resources.

I just want to say, as a person, I knew about these posters. I worked for the federal government. I walked by these posters every day, they had them in the cafeteria. I had a friend who worked at NCMEC, so it was kind of in my mind that these posters were out there. But when I came to work at NCMEC a couple of years ago and I worked starting in the Missing Children Division, that's where I heard the stories about how these posters can recover children and why they're so important for us to look at and continue to distribute.

We had a child missing in New York, and we deployed one of our Team ADAM consultants, I'll talk about momentarily, to put posters on the subway in New York because we thought that the child may be on the subway, a young child. And so within hours, we received a phone call at the call center, and someone said I'm looking at a missing child poster, and I'm holding the hand of the child on the poster. What should I do? That is the most beautiful story that I can think of. I've heard other stories from our colleagues in our poster distribution that are equally amazing, and why I just really like to take the time and talk about this incredible resource.

And spoiler alert, where we're working on changing our poster, the look in the feel, and to really work to get folks engaged on this. So in the next several months, that will be coming down the pike. So you're getting a little spoiler alert there on our posters.

So I've mentioned a couple of times our Team ADAM consultants. These folks are traditionally retired law enforcement who have spent their career in law enforcement and, once they retire, really want to continue to give back. Each year, we train from about 20 to 25 individuals who can provide a lot of different resources. So some of these folks have search and rescue experience, some have specific experience in unidentified human remains.

We are the only organization in the nation that can provide landfill assessments. We actually have this Team ADAM folks who are being trained as we speak this week. I think they started last week, I talked to them yesterday about our disaster preparedness work. And the new ones have an even broader skill set. We have some odontologist and anthropologists who are here to provide their skill set to law enforcement.

And there's a great picture. Unfortunately, I didn't think to put it in here. Something that they can do in terms of the long-term case assistance is organize and analyze all of the evidence. There's a wonderful picture that my colleague put together where there is a picture of all of the evidence and the files and they're kind of like all in disarray. You can be, like, how could anything happen from this? And then the next picture is once the Team ADAM consultant has gone in and been invited in to provide that on-site technical assistance, and just the organization of files and everything in itself. Right? So they just are a wonderful resource that we have, and they can deploy on-site to missing cases.

We all have a different on-call moments where we have to call our TAC and say, hey, there's a missing child, critical child case, can you deploy? In COVID, of course, we dial back our on-site assistance because, A, we have some folks who were in the high risk category, and, B, we're just not traveling. Right? So honor what we were supposed to be doing for the government, staying home. But we did continue to provide all of the technical assistance that we could by phone and by connecting law enforcement with the resources that I'll go into a little bit more detail about.

So this slide is part from our Forensic Imaging staff, and it shows an age progression. So we have a missing child, age 17, and then our staff who have progressed her to what she would look like at age 29. A few things. A missing child case is eligible to have a missing-- sorry, an age progression completed after that child has been missing for two years, which is enough time for growth and development to take place.

These are updated every two years until the child turns 18 and then every five years after that due to the slower rate of change in the missing child's face. As of this year, forensic artists have created over 7,000 age progressions. And Colin is my colleague who heads up this part of our organization. And I was on a call with him a couple of weeks ago for talking to someone who was interested in this topic. And he and his staff had just completed an age progression where the child-- they had made the child 87 years old. So I just want to underscore the fact that we are doing age progressions, we are never giving up hope on any case.

So biometrics. Our forensic services unit maintains our biometric program. We focus on securing DNA, dentals, and fingerprints on all case types with the goal of getting them into national databases where they will search proactively for associations. This slide shows, at a high level, our three main goals in forensic services. The DNA goal is to get full mitochondrial DNA and STR profile into CODIS which is the Combined DNA Index System.

The dental goal is to get full radiographs uploaded into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System NamUs encoded into NCIC. Our fingerprint goal is to locate fingerprint records and have them uploaded into NamUs, NGI, which is the Next Generation Identification, and NCIC.

I mentioned that we have posters for unidentified children, which I am going to let can be pretty tough to look at. A way that the public can help in this effort is to follow our Help ID Me page which we have on Facebook. And also, in the spirit of hope, I do receive email notifications from my Missing Children's Division colleagues when a child is identified. We can share ID information only when law enforcement approves that because, of course, there may be an ongoing investigation. But I'm here to tell you, because of our efforts, we are consistently able to give a child back their identity.

So there are more than 18,000 law enforcement organizations in the US, and most have less than 50 on staff. And we know that in Indian country and tribal communities, the resources are often even more scarce. NCMEC has the public and private resources to create specialized reporting and has the dedicated human assets to do this work so that law enforcement can do the boots-on-the-ground investigating.

So there may be accessed to public records or these open source databases, but we hope we can pull all of that information together and couple it with our other resources and partnerships and not only do that research but put it together in a report for law enforcement so they can do the investigation on the ground. We are not an investigative agency, we're just providing the resources to law enforcement. So it's just, again, this is just what our Analytical Services Division can do, could take basically a day or two. It's just incredible what they have to offer, and the skill and the talent, it's just wonderful.

So next, just talking about our long-term case reviews. We have around 1,000 long-term missing cases that have dedicated staff working on them. As part of our work, several times a year, we hold case reviews with a multidisciplinary group of experts to reexamine leads and add value to the cold case or even a fresh eye. In fact, I recently received a call from a colleague who works in the long-term Missing Child Unit. And he had a question for me. He was working on a cold case from 1995 of a child missing from the MacKay tribe in Washington.

So again, NCMEC is in the business the hope. We are never giving up looking for our missing children. And again, just looking at the list of participants that can provide help for these long-term case reviews, we have our FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit, we have prosecutors who understand no body homicides. We have our other folks from search and rescue that I mentioned, just an incredible-- not only our own staff, we can pull together these other resources of folks with technical expertise to really try to solve these long-term cold cases.

So this slide has a picture of our federal partners. Just reiterating the fact that NCMEC is a non-profit, non-government organization. We are not the government. We just have a lot of partnerships with the different federal agencies, of course, the Department of Justice, FBI, our Marshals, Secret Service. We have a partnership with the Department of State because, as you can imagine, sometimes our kiddos are abducted. Typically, if they're going abroad, it's a parent maybe has taken them abroad. And so we have resources and partnerships with the Department of State. So again, just a wealth of resources that become available when we're contacted.

The last thing that I want to talk about in terms of our federal partnership is a little more deeper dive into our work with the Department of Justice. NCMEC supports the training and resources provided through the Department of Justice's tribal Access Program. This program provides select federally recognized tribes access to data across the Criminal Justice Information Services System and other national crime information systems.

When missing children are entered into the National Crime Information Center, NCIC, NCMEC is able to provide technical assistance to tribal law enforcement. So that's why we really advocate for tribes to be a part of this program so that they have an NCIC access, and we can continue to provide really great support. The DOJ Missing and Murdered indigenous Persons Working Group serves to develop model protocols and procedures to apply to new and unsolved cases of missing or murdered persons in Native American communities.

And a lot of that work that's going on kind of right now in this space is trying to deal with and address the different jurisdictional issues and the frustrations that are experienced at kind of all levels in these particular communities. And then we have, of course, the Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives. NCMEC has participated in listening sessions with this particular task force, but we've also talked to local tribal law enforcement and advocates across the country, just like Val who introduced us, and we reached out to and talked with.

One of the common themes that we've heard from advocates in tribal law enforcement is that they don't feel that anyone is looking for their missing children. This is a reason why it's so important that missing children are reported to NCMEC. NCMEC was founded by families who felt the same frustration. We can help bridge gaps in communication. We have the resources to advocate for and support families and caregivers. And we have a national platform to get the information about missing children out to a wide audience. With that, I'm going to introduce again Shannon.

Hi, everybody. Thank you so much, Joy, for that wonderful overview of all of the work at NCMEC. You and I don't sit when we're in office all that far away from each other, but it's amazing to me just all of the programs that we have and initiatives that we have that I just don't get to hear about every day. So I am really excited to be here and be able to talk with all of you. Joy, as you were going through your slides, there were so many that I was thinking, oh, this is so interesting.

Looking at the endangerment slide, I was wondering what that would look like if we were doing some data pulls on COVID times and what has been happening since COVID with children and what that would look like. That in the data slide that you had, online enticement was a very low category, but I wonder if that's a higher category now, if that's a situation that many of you listening are dealing with some of the families that you're working with and communities that you're a part of.

So what I would like to switch gears and talk a little bit about today is what do families need and how can we at NCMEC help support the families that you all are working with. So for me, I am somebody that believes healthy families create healthy children. And resilient families help create resilient children.

And so our mindset at NCMEC on our Family Advocacy Team, when we first encounter a family in need is we want to figure out where has that family been before. What have they already tried? What are their what's their support tribe around them, their resources around them, that connection that they already have to people that could be helpful? Where are those gaps and where are those things that need to be beefed up or need to grow for a family in need?

Now our team in Family Advocacy, we don't get the chance to support every family at NCMEC. As you could tell from some of Joy's data slides, that would be a lot of families. So there are many, many people who help to decide and really screen for what a family needs. When a family or an advocate that might call on behalf of a family, when they say this person doesn't know what to do, or I don't know where to turn, I don't know what my resources are. Certainly, if a person is displaying a lot of emotion on the phone, if that person is crying, if they say that they need resources, that really cues all of the folks at NCMEC to send them over to our team.

And we are a team of mental health providers who really want to make sure we can help a family move forward. And as you can imagine, that looks different for every family that we work with. So figuring out how can we assist them initially and help to understand what they've tried before and what they may need now.

So then we look at the types of support that might be available. Oftentimes, families have mental health support or they have connection to resources, but they would really like to speak to somebody who's been in a similar situation. And we have a program called Team Hope that I'll talk a little bit about in a minute. So sometimes, that peer and emotional support takes the lead and that ends up being the priority of what a family needs.

But then, other times, we have peer and emotional support is well-covered for a family in need. Perhaps, they have great support in that realm, than what they actually need is there are those mental health resources, those mental health contacts, those advocacy programs, and just an understanding of what the resources are that might be available to them.

We understand on our team that many families experience challenges in trying to figure out what is the right resource for them. Perhaps, they've tried outpatient services before and that wasn't really successful. Well, maybe we could suggest teletherapy. We could suggest a virtual type of setting, perhaps that might work. Sometimes, there's been families that have had clinicians come into the home before and offer in-home services, and maybe that hasn't been successful so maybe switching back to an office-based type of service or some sort of inpatient program, maybe that might be helpful.

So we are all really trying to figure out what is the right program or the right resource for this person in need. And we do have a lot of children that reach out to us, also. I did want to spend a minute to talk about that. Because the children who reach out to us, they may just call 1-800-THE-LOST themselves and say, hey, I'm not missing, I saw my picture the other day, I'm not missing. Or they may call our exploited child helpline, which is our cyber tip line, and say, wait, I am being exploited online, I do need help and I don't know what to do.

So the number of kids who are reaching out for services has really grown a lot. And we're so thankful for that. I really enjoy knowing the children know that there's a resource for them and that there's a place that they can call and ask for help themselves when they might not know what else to do or who else to call.

So once we're identifying those family challenges, then we're trying to figure out how do we move forward. What does moving forward look like for the family that I'm working with, and how can I help in the midst of that. And we're going to talk a little bit about some of those programs in a minute. And then figuring out where are those resources out in the community and where are those touch points and those connections where I can get you connected to somebody that can help you directly.

That is really the best thing I think for all of us at NCMEC when we can feel like we've found a great resource, and the family is ready to use it. And they see the value in it, they're ready. And then we can set them off on their way. And hopefully, they can be getting the support that they need, which is a really, really great thing for us.

So when we think about what families need and, directly, the concerns that parents may have, one thing that nearly every parent on the phone will say is will my child be OK again? No matter what that circumstance is, the child is often long feeling troubled, stressed, anxious, worried, there's many feelings that children have once either they've been recovered from being missing, they've come back home after being missing, whether they've been exploited online. And families are trying to figure this out.

Many families will say, I just want things to go back to normal. And I have a colleague that says normal is a setting on a dryer, and that's it. Normal is not something that any of us can easily go back to. What we do is we create new normals and new opportunities to deal with the situations that we're in.

So thinking about how to deal with my child's behaviors. And sometimes, those behaviors are anger, it's frustration. Perhaps, that child said, I was fine out there on the street. I didn't need you as my families around me. I was able to take care of myself. Why don't you just let me go and live on my own? I'm imagining many of you who are listening have had these conversations with families or see families dealing with these sorts of struggles.

So that is certainly a concern that many parents have, too. And then parents want to know, am I a person that can actually allow my child to share whatever is going on? How can I be a safe place for my child? I want to make sure that they know they can tell me anything. And so their strategies around listening and different forms of communication. There's opportunities to help parents figure out, how can I engage my child in a conversation where I can actually help them with what they need?

And we have strategies for those things. We often help families figure out how to have conversations and not start with why. Why is a question that we all ask as parents. For all the parents listening on the phone, I'm sure you're thinking the same thing. It's easy to say why did x thing happen or why is this situation happening to us? But trying to rephrase that for families and help them understand that "why" questions maybe aren't the best. We try to ask "what" questions. What caused this to happen? What could have been done differently? What can I do to support you now?

It's a little trick that we use, but many families will say, oh, yeah, I do ask a lot of "why" questions. And so just trying to really strengthen those ways that families can engage with the youth around them. And then safety. Safety is a huge thing that we will often talk to families about and how do I feel safe with the situation around me. My child was exploited online or my child had an offender come to the house. My child was missing. And all of these crimes were committed against my child while they were missing. How can I feel safe in this situation again?

And so that's really something mental health services and therapy services can be really, really helpful for, reestablishing feelings of safety and support for everybody who's been impacted by a situation. And that really helps build resiliency and the opportunity to grow away from the trauma, to have that post-traumatic growth that I know so many families are looking for.

And then lastly, responding to your child, trying to figure out the right way to communicate. Nowadays, if I'm talking to my teenager on the phone, they don't want to talk. Right? They want to text or they want me to, I don't know, leave them a note or something. Talking on the phone is boring for kids these days. So trying to help children understand why their parents might want to have that face-to-face conversation, and then trying to help parents understand, well, what are the other ways you can communicate?

Maybe if you've never been a letter writing family, maybe you could start now. Write down some thoughts and slide it under your child's door and give them the chance to think about it. Or send a video message. There have been many families I've worked with that have really had success in sending video messages or voicemail messages back and forth. And it takes that pressure of that face-to-face conversation away by offering the chance to still have a conversation and communicate but not having to look into a parent's eyes and see disappointment or a child's eyes and see fear. Those are some strategies that have been helpful for many families before.

So I do want to touch base a little bit and talk about family reunification. Joy covered a lot of the case types in different ways that we capture data at NCMEC and then all of the different ways that we support families. And family abduction, one parent taking a child, is really something that we see often at NCMEC. It's our second highest case type. And so developing reunification protocols when this happens is something that we've had to do.

And the mental health providers that we know are hungry for it. They want this family reunification protocol information. They want to be trained on it. For those of you that are mental health providers listening, this isn't something that's usually taught in school or there aren't trainings you can find easily on how to bring families back together. If there are trainings related to that, they're often related to some sort of child welfare involvement or some sort of abuse or neglect history.

So when we think about bringing families together after a parent has taken a child, we have a series of steps that we'll work through with families. And I'm going to talk about a family in a minute. But these three "P's" is what we call it, making sure that families are prepared, that they're staying present in the moment, and that they're planning for after, helping families figure out what are the things that I need to know before this happens, while this is happening, and then after this happens.



So I'd love to introduce you to a family that I actually had the opportunity to be present during their reunification. So our team at NCMEC, if it's a local case and there's an airport involved or a reunification is happening locally, we'll be able to deploy ourselves and assist in that reunification. And this is a great example of many obstacles in the way. These two children believed that their dad had been an abusive father and that that's why they were taken by their mother. And they were taken by their mother overseas.

So their dad fought for them for many years. And the children were just really caught in the middle of this battle between mom and dad. And finally, the courts were able to rule that the children can be returned to their father, that the mother had taken them wrongfully and kept them wrongfully from him. And so the children were able to return back here to the US. And it was a local case, so we were able to be involved. And when I first met these girls, they were afraid of their father. They had zero interest in seeing him.

But the other female in the picture here is grandma. And they did remember grandma. They had some positive memories of grandma. Any positive memories that they had of dad had been erased by the time that they were apart and also by the situation in the story that mom had told them was the reason why they were missing in the first place.

So they were really interested in seeing grandma. But I could tell when I met them that they really needed to have some control over the situation. And right? We want that as adults, of course, children want that, too, they're grasping for that, trying to figure that out. And so during this reunification, the girls were finally able to say that they were interested in seeing their dad. They did kind of want to check him out, see how he's changed after all these years, have the chance to get acquainted with them. But they really wanted to be in control in that room, in that setting at the airport.

So we had specific seats arranged for the father. We had specific seats arranged for the children. We had seats arranged for the grandma. And I wonder as you are listening to this, if you're thinking of families that have been through this situation, through a family abduction experience. It is a terrible thing to happen to a child to not be able to have healthy, safe, and loving parents around them. And we certainly want to be able to offer any of these sorts of reunification services that we can.

So when we were there with them, I had the girls separate from the father, and I had a team working with dad. And I had myself and some teammates working with the children. And we were really working to pique each other's interest. And so the children would say something interesting, and then I'd run into the room with dad and have the opportunity to share with him some of the things. So I told Dad they have ideas of where they want you to sit and the contact that they want you to have.

And so they had agreed to, like, a pat on the shoulder. They said that they didn't want to have a hug. They didn't want to have a kiss. And so we were honoring that. I encouraged Dad to honor that, honor that need for them to be in control of those moments. But and actually, just to close out their story, they all went home together that evening. We had law enforcement present. We had Child Services present. We had advocacy organizations present. This was kind of an all-hands on deck moment where many people were ready for whatever the outcome was going to be.

And the children expressed safety. There were the right professionals involved to be able to assist them. And so they were all able to go home that evening together, which was terrific. But we do know that children, after they are returned from a family abduction situation, experience these things on the left-hand side. They are trying to make sense of what just happened in their world. Oftentimes, they describe, I woke up one day and I was this person and these were my family members, and by the end of the day, I was someone else, and I had these other family members.

And there's so much confusion. There's so much fear. There's so much worry about trust, guilt about what they did to their searching parent unknowingly. They didn't even know that they were missing sometimes. But the guilt that they have of the trauma their searching parent went through. And then the guilt that they have because they had a wonderful life with their taking parent. Or they really enjoyed their time with their taking parent. So this is a really complicated issue, and we do a lot of training around it.

So if you're thinking of families that could use some of these resources or if you're mental health providers yourself and you're thinking, oh, yeah, I'd love to learn some more about this, please do reach out.

So I spoke before about the Peer and Emotional Support Team, and this is a photo of a few of them, a large few of them I should say. So I hope you've heard of Team Hope. I hope you've had the opportunity to learn or to be familiar with the Team Hope organization. So they are part of us at NCMEC. They are part of the Family Advocacy Team. And these are all family members who have experienced having a missing or an exploited child.

And what's really neat is it's not just parents in this group. We know that grandparents are impacted. We know that siblings are impacted. There's so many different ways that families are going through these situations. And we really want to be able to match up parents with parents and grandparents with grandparents and siblings with siblings. So for instance, if a sibling is reaching out and saying, you know, I'd really just like to talk to another sibling. The issues that siblings experience when they have a sibling that's missing or exploited are very unique. And I just want another brother or sister I can talk to.

Our goal is to be able to match up siblings with each other so they can share those feelings together. So this is a program for adults. And we actually do have a brand new team also of adults who were exploited or missing as a child themselves. So we've learned recently that adults, once they've recovered from this situation, they also want to have other adults to talk to who have experienced something similar.

So in addition to training parents and other family members, we have recently expanded these Team Hope teams to be able to offer those services to the actual person as an adult who experienced being a missing or an exploited child. So it's a great way to just further extend the offer of peer and emotional support. And if you are working with any adults who were missing or exploited as a child, please do send them our way. We would be happy to get them connected if you think that type of peer support would be helpful.

These things on the right are the bullets of topics that these folks are trained on. So listening is really an important strategy, understanding, having good listening skills, active listening skills. Our Team Hope volunteers are all trained in that way. They want to understand self care strategies, so they can recommend some of those for the families they're supporting.

They want to understand what stress does to the brain so they can help a parent that they're on the phone with that says, I just can't remember my medication or I just can't remember every day I'm supposed to call somebody and check on this thing, and I just can't remember to do it. And so the Team Hope volunteers can understand that that might be a stress reaction in their brain. That might be a brain chemistry issue. And so helping other family members be able to find solutions and kind of put puzzle pieces together is really where Team Hope is very strong and active and supportive of all of us going through similar situations.

So I did mention being on the phone and Joy and I at our desks in Alexandria, Virginia, and I want to introduce you to our army of mental health providers that are out there across the nation. So I can only do so much on the phone, but I know when I hang up the phone with the family, when I know I need to find a mental health resource for them and I think of this group of people here. This is our Family Advocacy Outreach Network, it's just a small group of mental health providers that are all across the country saying, I am here to support NCMEC families. I'm here for you. I'm here for whatever you need. Call me when you have a family in need, and I will be happy to help them.

So these are all providers that have various levels of training and skills and interests and expertise themselves, but all of them have come together to say, you know what? I don't know enough about what NCMEC does. I want to be trained additionally on some of the trauma that the NCMEC families have experienced. And I want to know more about what the children experience when they are missing or exploited. And so these providers have stepped forward and said, I want to help, I'm going to be a part.

And so we are so happy to have this group of people. And if anyone is a mental health provider listening and you think, oh, yeah, I'd love to learn more about some of that, we would be happy to get you connected and give you some opportunities to attend trainings and learn from each other and network with the other mental health providers that are here as part of this picture and all across the nation.

These are folks that some of them have gone to airports for us on weekends or on holidays to help families reunite in that same situation I described. And others, they work at an agency, and they know that their agency sees children impacted by being missing or exploited, and they have that level of expertise and wanted to learn more and wanted to do more. Others are private practitioners. They just work in private practice and are here to try to help in whatever way that they can.

So it's a really diverse group of folks who have all said, I'm going to take that knowledge and expertise I have and do some more good in the world with it and have signed on with NCMEC. So it's a great army of people across the nation. I'm so happy when I can hang up with the family, know that I have a provider that's been trained and knows about NCMEC's services, and I can get them connected.

And I know that you all are listening. I saw the email list of people who are registered. So many diverse groups and agencies and organizations, and I'm just really excited to get connected to you all. If you are providing direct services, if you think, oh, yeah, this is some of the work that I do and I want to learn more about the NCMEC cases and I want to be able to offer more, please do let us know. We're really happy to get anyone connected and try to put some pieces together to be able to offer great services to you all as an organization or the families in need, too, that you help support.

So I just wanted to put a few flyers here for you. So you have the opportunity to know where some of these things are on our website. Is Your Explicit Content Out There? That URL is at the bottom. That's the screenshot of our website on the left. And then this flyer, Reconnecting with Your Child, is on the website [missingkids.org/support](http://missingkids.org/support). And we have that available in English and in Spanish. And this was written, the flyer on the right, to really help families figure out how do I have these conversations. How do I communicate with my child? How do I get my child to disclose to me? How do I help increase safety?

And some of the things that we talked about today, the flyer on the right was built to answer some of those questions and to really help guide families directly. So please do take a look at that. We do have those printed, also. So if you're thinking, oh, this would be a great resource in my office or I could hand it off to families that I'm working with, we could send you some. We would be happy to send you some. So please do let us know, and I'm happy to get you connected and get some really hand-delivered, right into your hands, so you can give them out to the families in need.

And then the next flyer is our family advocacy flyer. It just touches a little bit on some of our programs that I've talked about here today, the professional referrals through our Family Advocacy Network. We have the family and community assistance, and that's really just our Family Advocacy Team helping to support individuals on the phone. As I said, some people don't need those resources in the community, they just want to have a conversation with someone. They just want to feel like they're on the right track. They want to feel heard or validated in what their feelings are, and our team is here to offer that.

The peer support folks are our Team Hope Network. And then lastly, we have two separate reunification assistance travel programs that I'd love to tell you a little bit about. We do have an international reunification travel program. This is called VRT, Victim Reunification Travel. This is a grant provided to NCMEC through the Office for Victims of Crime. And this travel grant is able to refund a parent for a trip they may have already taken either to attend a court hearing overseas if their child has been abducted overseas internationally, or this could also be used for a parent who returned from a trip overseas to recover their child.

So we do have a reimbursement plan within this. So if a parent has already taken that trip, and we also have the opportunity to cover travel up front. So that maybe a case manager reaches out and says a parent that I'm working with just find out her child who had been kidnapped in Mexico, there's a court hearing scheduled, and they want me there. And so the parents are ready to go.

And so we can apply for travel assistance, and we can cover upfront that up-front plane tickets. We can help support the reimbursement of any hotel or meals or ground transportation also. So it's a great opportunity for families to be able to offset the costs of any sort of travel for hearing, court hearings, or reunification fees that could occur when a child is kidnapped internationally.

And then lastly, we do have a travel program for children domestically also. And this is something that not a lot of people know that we have, but it's a great partnership with American Airlines to be able to support families that need to travel. American Airlines is our most used travel partner. We do also have a relationship with Amtrak and a relationship with Greyhound. But as you can imagine, a train and a bus sometimes just can't compare to what an airline trip could be. Right? We might be looking at a 24-hour train or bus ride compared to maybe a four or hour plane ride.

But we do have those varied options for families who might not feel comfortable flying. Maybe a train is going to be a better option for them. But these programs exist for children who've been abducted domestically within the United States. So there are some approvals that we have to go through at NCMEC, but being able to offer families travel assistance and airline tickets is really an amazing thing when, usually, their child has been recovered quickly, immediately, and the law enforcement or the social services is saying have to get here now. And that can be tricky for a lot of families.

Like, right? Who can drop everything and kind of get somewhere now? And how do I buy tickets for that, and where does that money come from? And so we exist, and we support these travel programs to be able to help those families when they get that call that says your child's been found, I need you here now. So those are airline tickets through American Airlines. There is no lodging or food reimbursement, though, with this program. So the goal would be to get a parent there quickly and get them back with their child quickly so that new normal can begin that we were talking about.

But I am going to pass now to my colleague, Sam. It is a great thing to be working together with so many professionals on the NCMEC team to deliver services to families and victims in need. And so I'm happy to pass it to my colleague to talk some more about some specialized services for child sex trafficking victims.

Great. Thank you so much, Shannon. So I'm really excited to tell you all about our newest team at NCMEC which is our Child Sex Trafficking Recovery Services Team. So as many of you may know, in 2014, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act was passed, which required child welfare professionals to report children missing from care to NCMEC in addition to reporting them missing to law enforcement.

So as a result, NCMEC, of course, saw a huge increase in the number of children reported to us missing from the care of foster care, social services. And we also saw a huge increase in the number of children missing from care who are likely victims of child sex trafficking. And we know that kids in care are often targeted by traffickers, and they're often seeking a sense of love and belonging and other unmet needs that traffickers are really easy to manipulate and even create the illusion of meeting those needs for these kids.

So with this increase and shift at NCMEC, we saw the need for really creating a specialized team that could offer support and resources to these child welfare professionals who are the legal guardians of, now, really a large percent of the children reported missing to NCMEC for the victims of child sex trafficking.

So the Child Sex Trafficking Recovery Services Team was developed just this year. So we are launching in a few states at a time, hoping to be fully launched by the end of this summer. And this team consists of four resource specialists who are each assigned to a multi-state region of the United States. And they're available to provide specialized case-based assistance to child welfare professionals, law enforcement, and other multidisciplinary team members when children are reported missing from care to NCMEC and there's a concern for child sex trafficking.

So our goal in this outreach is to connect to that child welfare professional while the child is still missing to really help them proactively plan for that child's recovery. Our team is also compiling promising practices as we see them develop around the country around concepts like safety planning with youth, youth engagement, youth voice and choice, understanding engagement at various stages of change or willingness to return to care. And then working with those child welfare professionals to develop strategies to really engage with these kids and to get them to want to come back to care, to stay in care, because they really truly feel seen and heard and cared about by the professionals that are caring for them.

So we know that child sex trafficking involves complex trauma. And the needs of these children at the time of and following recovery are really complex. So we see this moment of recovery. And by that we mean, when a child is either located by law enforcement or decides to return to care or to a placement on their own, we really see that moment as a pause or a disruption in their victimization, and a really unparalleled opportunity to begin to engage with that child and start to build healthy relationships that really challenge that trafficker victim trauma bond that we often see.

We believe if we come together as a multidisciplinary team and really plan for that moment of recovery and what will happen after that moment that we have a better chance of being trauma informed and victim centered in our interactions with that child, a better chance of building healthy relationships and rapport with that child. So our goal is to really help mitigate all of the challenges and barriers we know are really common for children to face at the time of recovery, such as a fear that they might be in trouble, feelings of anger, or distrust towards systems that have maybe failed them in the past, and feelings of guilt and shame that they might be experiencing after the traffickers often internalize those feeling into these children.

So planning for that recovery it will also help adjust expectations of individuals caring for kids at that time so they really understand the behaviors that we might see as likely trauma responses as opposed to seeing them as aggression and opposed to seeing running away as the child being bad, seeing it and understanding that that's a behavior that's often a response to something happening in that child's life.

We know that kids are running from something or they're running to something, and it's really our job as professionals to help identify what that is and try to help meet those needs that these children have. So beyond the time of recovery, this advanced recovery planning has the goal to really make sure that these children are connected to vetted and specialized resources to really holistically meet their needs.

So the Recovery Services Team operates in both a top down and bottom up approach. So bottom up, we're really reaching out directly to child welfare professionals to troubleshoot and case plan around specific missing children. Our goal in these conversations is oftentimes to help change or increase their knowledge about child sex trafficking, about running behavior, about trauma. Oftentimes, it's really shifting their attitudes as well towards that child if, maybe, they are approaching that child from a shaming and blaming perspective to really understanding what this child's going through in their life.

And then our ultimate goal is impacting their behavior the way that they're interacting with that child and the resources that they're connecting that child to. Top down, this team is also available to provide training, technical assistance and support, and protocol development and other tools to really help agencies or entire multidisciplinary teams change the overall system response to child sex trafficking, identification, and recoveries.

So when we get on the phone with a child welfare professional, these are some of the things that we're doing. We are starting by really assessing their knowledge and understanding of child sex trafficking and of this particular child. Right? What are the push and pull factors behind their running behavior? What's this child's history? What is the relationship between the child welfare professional and the child like?

And then we're talking about things like youth engagement, opportunities to give that child a choice and a voice in their treatment planning and then their placement. And we're talking through any relevant cultural considerations that might impact recovery or service delivery. And especially relevant to this group, looking at is this child from a native community? Also, looking at does this child identify as LGBTQ, as two spirit. And how might these cultural considerations really come into play at the time of recovery, and then in connecting them to appropriate resources that are also trauma informed and culturally competent and really able to meet the needs that these children have in their healing process.

So this is the breakdown of our team, and this is also available in one of the handouts that you can access through this meeting. So our team is regionally assigned so that the resource specialist can really dive into their states and learn about the child welfare structure and policy in their states, the child sex trafficking laws, really learn about specialized service providers like so many of you on this call that we would also just really love to connect with and learn more about the services that you provide. And then also learn about the different Native communities in their states and different cultural considerations in the areas that they're serving.

And our goal is to really build relationships with individuals on the ground so that we can really work as a team to support these children. And with that, this is our contact information for Joy, Shannon, and myself. We'll leave this up for a minute, and we'd love to know if there are any questions.

Thank you, Joy, Shannon, and Samantha, for the excellent presentation. I learned more in each of your presentations today as well. We will now begin answering questions from our attendees. So the first question that I do have is for Shannon. How can tribal advocacy programs get into the referral list for Native American victims?

Thank you, Val, yes, that's a great question. Thank you. We have actually just hired somebody on our team who just started last week. And her job is really to organize the advocacy resources nationwide. The mental health resources, the community based-agencies and organizations, working closely with Samantha's team also. We really want to build up our resource list, and we realize that many of you listening probably work for an organization that we don't have on our resources. We don't have their information. We don't know what type of services are provided.

So I am really happy to think through all of you emailing me. Believe me, please, really I do. I'm anxious for all those emails to be able to hear more about the services that you offer. And Samantha and I are really hoping that we can build out that resource list and be able to offer all of the services in a community. Generally speaking for us, we're looking for those mental health providers that we have within our family advocacy team. We have folks that are clinicians. They have some sort of clinical license and can provide that level of service.

And we usually look for those specifically because, oftentimes, they have pro bono spots or they can offer a sliding scale or offer free services that sometimes organizations and agencies just might be limited in that regard. Or they might be grant funded or it might only be a number of free sessions, but by looking for those individual providers, sometimes we can offer more flexibility around cost and offer a resource to a family that we know would be a low cost.

But we do also want to stay connected to the organizations and agencies because we, often, clinicians work within a larger team or within a larger group. And even though they're not in private practice, your agency and organization still doing great work and able to serve families in need. So I'm really happy to think of all of the people that might be connected in that way and who might be interested in being added to our resource and advocacy lists.

In reference to or relation to the question we just asked, do how often tribes are receiving referrals for advocacy assistance?

That is a great question. And I wonder about our Case Management teams and whether some of our case management teams might be making that outreach. Joy, I'm not sure if you know that at all or not. For us, on our Family Advocacy team, we need somebody else to determine that there's a need for a family. Or we need that family to call the call center and say I need support, I need resources, I need somebody to talk to. And then that would be kind of directly funneled to our team.

So as far as how many times we're able to reach out to those tribal groups, I would say our number is probably way too low, incredibly low, because we just don't know which organizations are out there and which ones are providing the services that a family may need. But I'm hungry for that information. I'm definitely anxious to hear about all the ones that we can add to that resource list.

OK. And your information is listed on the slide with your email and participants may contact you directly.

Absolutely. Yeah.

Joy, this next question is for you. Is NamUs still being maintained and operated? This individual heard that the grant was defunded.

The immediate answer to that is yes. I want to say I'm not an expert in NamUs. I will say there was a period of time before the end of the year where there was a concern about what's just been asked. And a lot of NCMEC staff actually went into our database, including myself, all hands on deck, we're trying to make sure that we had a lot of information in our own files. But that issue has gone away. I don't know the details. I'm sorry that I can't articulate all the details but NamUs does exist. So I'm happy to follow up with anything specific that would be helpful, but the short answer is they're there.

Right. I agree with you, Joy. They are in operation as of now. So I do know that. Shannon, another question for you. Do you come to tribes throughout the United States or is this referral to another agency?

So we do have a mental health consultant who has deployed out to different tribal communities before to assist in a community-wide effort. So if there is some sort of larger case or a larger scale type of need, we do have a consultant who's done that. Also, on our Team Hope team, we do have many family members in the Native American community that have been able to support other family members in that way also.

We physically do not come to the tribal lands ourselves, but we do have those consultants that would do that. And I also know on our Team ADAM team, Joy, those consultants could also assist in that regard, too.

Great. Thank you. Another question for you, Shannon. Sometimes, parents feel they are being blamed. How do you assist a parent to understand it is not their fault?

That is a great question. And I wonder if the writer is thinking of parents being blamed from the community, from their own family, from whatever their child may have said. If they're being blamed while their child might be missing or exploited or feeling blame when their child has returned. So there's a lot to tease out, I think, with that question. But one of the ways that I see families receiving the most amount of support is really through Team Hope, being able to talk to somebody else who's been through something similar is really one of the best ways for a family to figure out how to break through those feelings of guilt and blame and shame that they may feel.

So helping family members know that they're not alone, that's one of the best ways to be able to support families in that regard. But I do deal with a lot of families that feel so much guilt, so much responsibility, or so much blame they take on themselves. And when it's an online exploitation situation, I will often say to them the offenders are really good at what they do. There are so many children who have fallen victim to being exploited online that knew all the right things.

They knew not to talk with offenders online or they knew not to exchange photos or whatever may have happened. But they really-- the offenders are just so good at some of those things and so good at convincing children that it's OK. And so our prevention efforts at NCMEC-- we didn't get a chance to go into those today, but we have so many prevention programs. We have a brand new program that we just launched for elementary school age children called Into The Cloud, and it's all focused on cyber safety and online safety.

And it's these characters that, during each episode, they're in these kind of I don't know cyberspace situations and issues. And one of them is cyber bullying focused, and one of them is I exchanged a picture, and one of them is I saw this thing that someone showed me and I don't know what to do now. And so each episode is focused on some of those online difficulties. But to circle back, yes, that this long answer to the question, but the guilt and shame can really just can bury families. And so being connected to others in similar circumstances is an easy way to begin unburying yourself and kind of getting out of those feelings.

Great. Thank you, Shannon. This question is for Joy. Do you see partnerships with the Department of Interior in the future, especially with Secretary Holland's new MMIW task force?

Yes, definitely. We see that and are aware of her task force. And I was just kind of articulating what we have that's established. But yes, we definitely see that and are excited about all of the work and her interest in elevating this as an issue. Definitely.

Great. Thank you. Shannon, we did get two questions similarly. So are there any tribal specific peer support groups, mental health practitioners, or other resources?



Thank you. Yes, that's a great question also. And we do have that mental health consultant that has deployed out to tribal land before. So he is familiar and has been a facilitator of many, many events that are very specific and culturally specific to the Native American community. So he is somebody that we could certainly call on.

We do have Team Hope family members who are also part of the Native American communities. And so even if that case type doesn't measure up or doesn't match up, we would be able to offer that connection. That's something that we could do, too. And then certainly for the mental health practitioners, I'm really hungry to find them out there, to find the folks that can do that direct work, whether they're already in tribal lands doing the work and are interested in getting connected to us, or they are just familiar with those communities. I would love to be able to recruit them into our network and be able to use them as a resource.

I know that there are many other mental health practitioners that would love to be able to say, I can call up someone else on this network, this team of people who's connected in that way and has that level of understanding and culturally specific topics and resources.

Right. Thank you, Shannon. And I just encourage our participants who work within our native communities that you contact Joy, Shannon, or Dr. Sahl and share your program and information. I do know that we do need more services, referrals within the communities to be able to assist our families and reach out to them. Dr. Sahl, we do have a question for you. Sex trafficking is a subject area that's quite different in response. Does your program work with survivors of human trafficking to assist with advocacy of survivors?

That is a great question. So NCMEC as a whole, actually, has a survivor expert working group, which is a group of survivors and individuals with lived experience of child sex trafficking who are working really hard to learn about all of NCMEC's programs that they can make informed recommendations for ways that we can improve upon everything that we do at NCMEC, including the material that we're putting out there, the language that we're using, the trainings that we're giving, the questions that we ask missing children at intake, ways that we can better identify children from Native communities, ways we can better identify children that are victims of familial trafficking.

So as a whole, we work very closely with survivors. And then kids that we are working with that are missing children, when we work with their child welfare professional, our goal is to make sure that that child is connected to resources in their local community whenever possible. If there is an organization that's providing survivor led or survivor mentorship or advocacy, that would be our first choice and really connecting that child to somebody with lived experience that can really support them in their healing process.

Great. Thank you. So I'm not sure which one of you will answer this, but the question is, how do you navigate between tribal court and state law enforcement?

We have folks who work within NCMEC, like my colleague Alan Nanavati who came from the FBI and has a lot of experience in helping to navigate this. We also have attorneys on staff. It's a resource that we didn't even mention in our presentation because there's so many resources. We can't even quite get them all in an hour. But we have our Office of Legal Counsel who are attorneys who can help families navigate. And we have partners outside of NCMEC who can help to provide that guidance to navigate different systems.

But we're also a learning organization and constantly trying to figure out ways that we can be helpful to help navigate those systems. So just like Shannon, please email me any-- and as other folks have mentioned, we're also trying to look at ways that we can improve our services and what we not only offer, but how we offer them. So please fill my email inbox with your suggestions and feedback or resources that we may or may not be aware of. So welcome any support in that to make us better and stronger and more supportive across the board to communities.

Thank you, Joy, for taking that question. I have two comments left. One of them is that we have a participant who has shared she is a licensed LPC and is more than willing to help. Shannon, I will forward the name through email.

Thank you. That would be great. Excellent.

Yes. I don't see any more questions here. But before we end this Q&A, I want to share a comment by a participant who says, I don't have a question. But if it had not been for the posters, my missing girl would not have been found. So I just want to say to this participant I'm very happy that your baby is home with you and these flyers do mean something to individuals because we see them. So I just want to send out all the love to you and your family as you're moving on in your lives.

This is Joy. I just want to say thank you to the participant for sharing that. Of course, I have goose bumps and I want to be able to share that back with my colleagues who support everything involved in what we do to create those posters and get them out. That's a perfect example that just melts my heart, and I'm so glad that you shared that, and I just appreciate you sharing that. Thank you.

This is Shannon. If I may add on, also. I am amazed by the reach of the posters. And we have children identifying children. We have teachers identifying children on posters. We have law enforcement seeing situations and thinking something's just not right here and going to our website and thinking that they might have just seen somebody who's missing. I mean, it's amazing to me all of the ways that our posters are involved and used in recovery. So I definitely encourage everyone to look at them as many chances as you get. It's my regular stop at my local Walmart is to go look at the posters that are there.

Right. And continuing to share. Thank you, everyone. This concludes the question and answer portion of the webinar. Before we end today, I have a few reminders for our attendees. The National Criminal Justice Training Center at Fox Valley Technical College has a wide variety of upcoming training and technical assistance offerings as well as a robust library of recorded virtual events and resources.

Please visit our website to learn more about NCJTC. This concludes our webinar today. I want to, again, thank our presenters, Joy, Shannon, and Dr. Sahl, from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for their excellent presentation. And thank you to our attendees for joining us today. We hope you can join us again for future webinars, and have a wonderful day.