

## **Webinar Transcript - Child Abduction Response Teams (CART): A Resource for Tribal Communities**

All right. I think I'm going to go ahead and get started. I just want to be the first to welcome everybody to the National Criminal Justice Training Center webinar, Child Abduction Response Teams, CART, A Resource for Tribal Communities. My name is Jennifer Murphy, and I'll be moderating for you today.

And just before we begin, I just have a few things to go over. We want to acknowledge that this webinar was provided under an award by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, US Department of Justice, and supported by AMBER Alert Indian Country Program.

It's important just to note that the opinions expressed by the presenters in oral or written material is theirs alone and do not necessarily represent those of the National Criminal Justice Training Center, of Fox Valley Technical College, or OJJDP. In conjunction with our mission of our webinar series works to really bring together state, local, and tribal subject matter experts to present and discuss critical issues related to missing, abducted, and exploited children.

And then I'm just really pleased to introduce today's presenter. It's an honor and a privilege to be able to introduce him. His name is Derek VanLuchene. Derek is a project coordinator for AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program with a focus on CART and continuing to expand the number of US DOJ-certified CART programs, increase the number of trained CART programs in Indian Country, and to assist trained teams in maintaining operational capacity and readiness.

I've known him for a long time. He's a great guy. Again, my name is Jen Murphy. I'll be moderating today's webinar. And also, I'm just-- I'm an enrolled member of the Chippewa Cree tribe in Rocky Boy, Montana, and I'm also an associate for AMBER Alert Indian Country. Thank you guys so much for joining us. Derek, it's all yours.

Hey, thanks, Jen. Thanks for the great introduction. And I'm glad that you're on with us today, a fellow Montanan. So we're under the Big Sky here. And miles apart, but still in the same state. But yeah, I appreciate that, Jen. And Jen's done a lot around our state of Montana for Indian Country and tribal communities, so it's great to have you on with us today.

So yeah. So what we want to go over today is really recognizing the elements of a Child Abduction Response Team, talking to you about what a Child Abduction Response Team is. What are those elements that really bring together a team? And then talk about challenges to not only implementing a Child Abduction Response Team, but maybe keeping that team going after it's up and formed. What can you do to keep it going?

And those of you that are on today know that if you've ever had a missing child in your community, it's not just about a law enforcement response. It's about a community response, and how we respond as a community. And this really-- this training and developing a team is about not only incorporating those tools that we need like law enforcement and search, but also it's engaging your community, engaging your tribal community in the overall CART concept. So those are some of the objectives that we want to handle today.

And again, I encourage you-- there's the chat function that you'll see. I see some of you have used that already this morning or today or this afternoon, whatever it is. But go ahead and just make sure that you ask any questions in that chat. We're limited on time today. I could talk about this for eight hours, but we're limited on time. But I want to be sure that we're able to answer your questions if you do have any questions for us regarding what I say or what the slide says.

So that said, what is a CART? What is CART? A CART is a multidisciplinary team that responds when a child goes missing. Now, CART stands for Child Abduction Response Team. So your mind automatically goes to an abducted child, right? A child that's taken by a stranger.

A CART team can be used for different types of missing children. Yes, they are used for abductions. They're very crucial for not only a force multiplier, but also, they're very crucial for organization when it comes to a missing child.

But also, what about those kids that we just don't know where they are? Kids that wander off. I was involved in consulting on a case not too long ago in the state of Iowa where an autistic 12-year-old girl went missing. She wandered away from a house. They deployed their CART team and found her within minutes after the CART team was deployed. They put a drone up and were able to find her.

So really, it's a force multiplier. But think of it as a team that you can use for any child that has gone missing or becomes endangered. And that could mean a runaway child or any child that's just missing and we don't know what the cause is.

So each team is formed. And the way we do our training with the National Criminal Justice Training Center is assist you with finding people that are experts in their area, like Search and Canvass. We all know that there's folks out there that are very good at search.

I just talked to somebody the other day that's a expert in searching with horses and going out and riding horses. I'm afraid of horses, so I don't want to do that. But finding those experts, those criminal investigators, people that can take leads that come in.

When you get a missing child, and especially if it goes out to the public, you're going to have lots of leads, people calling in, saying, hey, I saw this or that. Who can handle those, and who can distribute them? So finding areas of expertise in each one of these things that we have listed here is very important in forming that team.

But that doesn't mean that it's just law enforcement. We'll talk about other types of folks that can get involved in the Child Abduction Response Team because it is about a community response when a child does go missing in the community.

Emergency operations. Some tribal communities have an emergency manager, and they also have an emergency operations plan. I know that in a lot of our Child Abduction Response Teams around the country, our emergency management folks are very good at getting organized. Getting organized, getting resources when it comes to a missing child.

Or let's say that you have a massive search that involves a lot of people. Where are you going to get food? Where are you going to get water? Our emergency management folks are very good at getting those resources. They're also good at organizing those resources.

So if we have a missing child and we bring a bunch of resources in from all over, that's great, right? But if they aren't managed correctly or they're not organized correctly, we could be in a situation where we have a lot of things to use, but we're not organized enough to use them. So that's where those emergency managers come in.

And look for other agreements with nontribal agencies for assistance with respecting the tribal sovereignty, but reaching out to folks outside of the tribal community that will provide resources. I'm in Montana, up in Browning, Montana. A few years ago, we had a little girl that went missing. Unfortunately, she's never been found.

But in that case, the Blackfeet Reservation and that tribal community reached out to a lot of different entities to assist with that. So be thinking about that too as you're thinking about when we talk about the structure of the team. And who might be involved in that structure?

So there's different types of CARTs we see across the nation. So we have 133 active CARTs across the US right now that are deploying actively on missing children. So of those CARTs, there's different types that are made up depending on the area. A single agency CART, which means the agency itself has their team and they respond only within their jurisdiction to look for missing children, utilizing the CART concept.

Not a very-- not a very regular type of CART. We don't see a lot of single-agency CARTs because, like we just talked about, those resources are sometimes gathered from outside of an agency. So we don't have many single-agency CARTs.

Regional CARTs or CARTs that are formed with multiple counties or multiple cities that are together to form a big region. This is a really good concept because it really drives home and brings to the table all of those resources of those other agencies.

But it can include city and county jurisdictions within those regional CART teams. And I would say that that's probably the most popular CART that we have, that is generated throughout the country is the regional CART. Because again, it's a force multiplier. People can come together with their resources, with their manpower, and really ramp up the efforts to find that child quickly. So we see a lot of those regional-- that regional concept out there across the country.

Statewide CARTs. We have a few of these within the United States. They're usually run by the state police agency or like a division of criminal investigation. I retired from the Montana Division of Criminal Investigation, and our job was to go in and assist local law enforcement. So sometimes states will form a statewide team.

However, most of those statewide teams are regional because a state agency or a state police agency may not have all the resources. So they have to rely on those localized agencies to help and provide and give those resources that are important when a child goes missing.

And then tribal agency CARTs specific to tribal lands. And that's what we'll talk about today, CARTs that are specific to tribal communities. How do we form those? How do we get those up and going? What are the things that we need to put the legs under the table, so to speak? And we'll talk about that today in our presentation.

Each team has a coordinator. It's important, again, not only to have organization while you're responding to a missing child, but also having organization within the team itself. So somebody's got to take the reins and be the coordinator.

Now, what does the coordinator mean? Does that mean that person has to be in charge if a child goes missing? Maybe. Maybe they are. Maybe they're not. A CART coordinator really means to oversee the operations of CART-- the CART and make sure the CART is sustained.

So that person would be responsible for making sure that the roster is full, that you have people that-- sometimes we have people on CART that retire or that get promoted, and suddenly they're off the team. It's that coordinator's job to really oversee the backfilling of that roster as it depletes.

Also, training is a main thing for a CART coordinator. Organizing a CART, getting a CART going, and sustaining that CART, it's very crucial that we have training within that CART team on a regular basis. And we'll talk about that a little bit more when we talk about the components of CART.

But we have to have one coordinator. Like, if you have a coordinator that's overseeing the operations of CART, and then suddenly that coordinator goes on vacation like I did the last couple of weeks-- I went out camping. I went out doing stuff. I'm building a deck on my house. So I took vacation, and other people were there to assist me when I was gone.

So having more than one coordinator to be able to respond, because if we leave it up to one person and that person happens to be out, then we might run into a problem organizationally and not have the ability to really respond like we should respond. It's got to have somebody at the helm.

Evidence-based standards. We learn a lot from CARTs that are formed currently when they respond in an organized, efficient fashion. Basically, it's what the CART concept is about. And we can tell by their feedback that CART works. It works. It's a force multiplier. It's a tool to use to respond when a child goes missing.

So we've looked at several cases, several CART teams that have deployed and been successful. I mean, not every child has been found alive because we'll have those cases where the child is recovered, but unfortunately not alive. But still, the CART team functioned as they should have.

I just had a case in our neighboring state of Idaho where their CART coordinator, they deployed for the first time. And it was a little girl that wandered off. And unfortunately, she was found deceased.

Talking to him, the CART coordinator, he felt like, oh, we didn't do this right. And went over it with him, and they really had a good response. They had a great response. And unfortunately, it turned out the way it did. But their response was good. It was organized, it was efficient.

So it continually builds and improves our capacity to respond and safely recover missing children. And it also enhances the community response. I'll talk about a case in a minute here that-- well, actually the next slide, but where I responded in Eastern Montana, in Wolf Point, Montana, to a four-year-old girl that was abducted by a stranger outside of a park, or in a park. And this was on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Northeastern Montana.

And when Maci went missing, the community responded. It was a community response. So how do we take that large community response and get an organization to it? And that's why you need specialized people that are able to do that, that are able to let the community know what they can do. Because believe me, when a child goes missing, the community is going to want to do something.

Now, let's say that you turn the community members away and say, no thanks. It's police business or there's nothing for you to do. What will they do? They will try and find something of their own to do, and that can directly interfere with your efforts to safely recover that child.

Yeah, Maci was playing in a park. A man walked up to her and grabbed her. There was a bunch of other kids in the park. And he literally threw her over his shoulder and walked out of the park. This was about 8 o'clock at night when this occurred. It was here in Montana.

And these kids witnessed that, and they went and got Maci's grandmother who Maci lived with at the time. And they said, this man grabbed Maci. Well, what's Grandma's response? She wants to go to the park and check it out for herself. So she did. She went there, looked for Maci. Maci was gone.

Law enforcement was called. An AMBER Alert was requested through the state of Montana, and it was put out along with a description of the individual that took Maci.

Eventually, his description went out and he was identified. And he was identified as John Lieba, as a suspect. They identified him. They put that on the AMBER Alert. And that AMBER Alert went out. A large-scale search ensued to look for Maci, to look for John Lieba.

A day and a half later, John Lieba was found. He was arrested on warrants, tribal warrants, and brought in to the sheriff's department for questioning.

When he was questioned, he said that Maci didn't deserve what she got, and I deserve the death penalty for what I did. And that's what he told investigators.

Now, that doesn't sound good. That doesn't sound like Maci-- it sounds to me like he killed Maci. So what do you do at that point? He wouldn't tell investigators where he took Maci, where she might be. He just quit talking to investigators.

So where do you search from there? Where do you go? The community was very involved. The families were very involved. And we just didn't know where to search. There was-- but we kept going. We kept going despite the news that we got. We kept going, and we kept searching.

John Lieba, the suspect, did a second interview the next day. He had sobered up since they arrested him. He did an interview, a second interview. And he said, I put her in a truck in the parking lot of a grain elevator.

Search teams go out there. They see a truck in the parking of a grain elevator. They go up to it, and Maci is in that truck, and she's alive. The deputy that went up, Maci's face just popped right up into his when he looked in the truck, and she was alive, and recovered alive.

She had some medical problems. He had strangled her and various other things, but she was alive. And that's an example of not only people coming together, but a community coming together to recover a missing child.

John Lieba was sentenced to 44 years in federal prison for that. He is still in federal prison. He tried to appeal a couple years ago and was denied that.

But I bring this case up because I think it's a good example of, A, we need organization. B, we need our community. And C, we can't ever give up when it comes to finding a child. We have to keep going. We have to get those resources in place to find CART. We have to have our resources and not be looking for them when we should be looking for the child. So that's an example of that, and that's why I bring up the Maci Lilley case.

There's components of CART. Now, getting back to CART, there's 12 different components that we like to see when a CART team is formed. So when we go out, our associates go out, our team goes out, and people say, I want to start a CART. And this is what we talk to them about are these 12 components that really we've seen from other teams make CART successful.

So I'll go over those 12 components, things that you might need to have under those 12 components. And again, make sure if you have questions that you please put them in the chat so I can see those and respond to them.

For response criteria, what are we going to respond to? Is it going to be just abducted children? Is it going to be any missing child where we don't know the circumstances? Is it going to be only if there's an AMBER alert? That's what we have to decide when it comes to our response criteria. So what is it that we're going to respond to? What type of case is it going to be?

I can tell you that the majority, if not all of the CART teams that we have, they're written protocol, which you're seeing here. These 12 components are part of that protocol. They respond to any missing child, any missing or endangered child. So that's how they write their policy. So it widens what they can respond to, and it really helps their CART stay sustained due to what they respond to.

But if we're going to have multiple agencies involved in this CART or multiple jurisdictions, we have to have that agreed upon by all those jurisdictions. And that's usually done through some kind of written agreement. We can call them MOUs, but it doesn't have to get that formal. We have letters of agreement that some teams have.

But regardless, everybody's got to know what that plan is. What is our response criteria? What is our plan for responding? How are we going to do it? And everybody should know that from the very, very start. So that's very important for us to know and to define for these agencies.

Well, this is an important one. And this is where I'm going to ask you guys to use the chat function for me here. Who should be on a CART? So take a minute and just put it in the chat for me. As I've talked about Child Abduction Response Teams so far, who do you think should be part of a Child Abduction Response Team? So go ahead and write that in the chat.

OK, I see law enforcement, search responders. Very good. All right. Maybe some people still writing. Yeah, law enforcement's definitely one. Usually, our CART teams are overseen by law enforcement or the coordinators with law enforcement. However, it's not required. We need somebody to be the CART coordinator that understands bringing the team together.

Qualified and trained educators. Keira, that's a great person to have on the team, somebody that interacts and knows the students, that sees them on a daily basis. Kind of knows who they run with, what activities they're involved in. Absolutely.

We've got teams across the country that have those. Tribal police, tribal sheriff. The council is good too, the tribal council providing resources. The tribal council knowing what a CART team is and knowing how to involve the community while that incident is going on.

Behavioral health. Absolutely, Kim. That's a great one to have. How do kids act? What do kids with certain disabilities-- what's their usual way of acting? How they conduct themselves. Those are great things. Behavioral health folks know that, as well as the parents. The parents of these children know too. So having as many people on that team that you feel like can provide a resource for when a child goes missing.

And that's a fluid process. We have many teams out there that have responded and. After they've responded and the child's been recovered, they have a debriefing where they come together and they talk about what happened in the case.

And inevitably, they'll find that they have one-- a resource that they didn't think of or they didn't know about. And suddenly, they bring that team member on that can provide that resource. But yeah, we have law enforcement, we have search people, we have emergency manager-- emergency management folks, educators, people from the school, community leaders that are involved and obviously in the community that can bring resources to the team.

Now, do every one of these team members have to respond to, let's say, your command post or your central location where that child went missing? Not necessarily. Obviously, we want to protect the integrity of any investigation or any potential crime scene that might be out there.

However, you can have folks on your team that are providing resources outside that main event. So they're out on the-- and I always call it the second circle. They're out on the second circle and providing those resources that law enforcement can't because they're in the middle of that thing, trying to look for the child.

But think about anybody that can provide a resource. And that doesn't mean, of course, that everybody on the team is going to rush right to the scene. It means that everybody provides a resource.

But having those-- and the activity that I do with somebody that wants to start a CART or an agency, I always have the whiteboard up and I say, OK, who do you think-- should just the activity we did today through our chat. Who do you think should be on it? And we start writing things down.

And then we talk to them further about the details. Food, water, things like that that they might not have thought about. And suddenly, we're adding to the list. So it's something that's a fluid process. And as your CART team develops, you could decide that you need more resources and you could identify somebody that can provide that resource to you.

We have Fish and Game here in Montana, and I know a lot of our CARTs around the country have that element, Fish and Game, people that do a lot with hunting and fishing and stuff like that. And what do they know? They-- [LAUGHS] they know that-- back in the wilderness. They all know the trails. They know the woods and survival and stuff like that. So very valuable resource when it comes to missing children.

But it's your team. Who you want on it is up to you. But I would suggest that they provide a resource to look for a missing child.

Notification. How are we going to get notified? So we have a missing child. A parent calls 911, reports that child missing, and dispatch gives it to law enforcement. Law enforcement responds. They verify, in fact, that child is missing. They've interviewed the mom, interviewed the dad. Child was last seen here.

Now they need a bigger response. How do we notify our current team? How do we get people there? Is it dispatch that's going to call up everybody and say, hey, we have this incident going on? That's fine if they do if it works, if it's proven effective and we've used it and tested it.

A lot of CART teams around the country use cell phones. They use apps, different applications within their cell phones that can notify a lot of people. I think one's called Spider that the state of Utah uses that can mass notify people. So you can put everybody on a listserv. You get that CART deployment or that missing child call. You can deploy that CART team using that sort of software.

So this is very important because if we don't respond, if we're on a team and we don't know, A, that we're supposed to respond, and B, where to respond, that can lead to some organizational troubles. And we've seen that happen where there's a lot of chaos in the beginning because nobody knew what to do or where to go. So it's important that you have some method of notifying your Child Abduction Response Team.

And who's going to have the authority to do that? That's an interesting question. Who is going to decide whether that team deploys or not? Is it going to be the CART coordinator? Is it going to be the sheriff? Is it going to be the tribal chief? Who is going to decide who has the authority to call out that CART team?

And that's whoever you want it to be, as long as everybody, again, knows about it and says, hey, if the chief of police sends out the message, he'll send it out, where to respond. If the CART coordinator sends you a message, you know that you have to go. As long as everybody knows that and it's agreed upon between folks.

Getting a good process, practicing it, practicing those call-outs. My dad was in the medical field, and he-- [LAUGHS]. He used to carry a pager around, and they used to have these test pages all the time. And I can remember being at an event with my dad, and he was carrying that pager. And it would go off and people would be like, what's that? But they tested it to make sure that everybody got that page.

So same as this. Make sure we test it. And we're beyond pagers now. Raise your hand if you still carry a pager. I don't. But I think I have one of my old ones.

But now you can use apps to notify people. Not only can you notify them, but you can say, hey, this is what we have, this is where you need to respond, and this is where our staging area is. So those are all things that are included within those apps that can be used to notify people. But it's got to be tested, it's got to be consistent, and it's got to have the authority-- or somebody has to have the authority to do that.

Communications not only within your incident or your command post, but also communicating with your community. What are you going to communicate to them? How are you going to communicate it?

We have multiple agencies that respond when a child goes missing. A lot of times, you'll get mutual aid from other agencies that respond. How are they going to communicate with each other? Are they going to have the same radio frequencies? Are they going to be able to communicate effectively with each other?

And there's been incidents where local law enforcement can't communicate with federal law enforcement, or vice versa. And so what that leads to is that leads to miscommunication and things not getting done, or things being repeated that don't need to be done.

But along with the communication is within your own command post. If you have a missing child and you set up a command post operation where everything's going to run out of, how are you going to get those leads from the 911 center who may be taking leads, or your call taker center or whatever it is taking leads? How is that going to get disseminated out to those folks in the field that need to follow up with those leads?

So we've got to have that communication plan. We've got to have the equipment to do it, and we've got to have the know-how to do it. And within our Child Abduction Response Team training, we take you through that. How do we get these elements in line in order to effectively communicate throughout the incident and also through the outside of the incident with community and folks that need to know information? So communication's a big one.

Command and control. Who's going to be in charge? If you have multiple agencies that are involved, if a neighboring agency comes into your tribal community, who's in charge? Is it going to be-- obviously, that tribal community's probably going to be in charge.

My role at the Division of Criminal Investigation in Montana, we got requested. So we could only come in at the request of local law enforcement, so we would have to be asked in. But that agency was still in charge. We didn't come in there and throw elbows and say, wait a minute, just clear out. I'm here. I'm your savior, that kind of thing. It was still the local agency that was in charge.

So when we talk about command and control, we've got to decide uniformly throughout the team, who's going to do that? Who's going to be in command? Most of the time, I will tell you when a CART responds and they respond to an agency, it's that agency that maintains command and control of that incident.

It doesn't automatically go to the CART commander. We've seen it happen, or the CART coordinator or the emergency manager, we've seen that happen. But mostly, it's the agency who requested the team or the agency where the incident occurred is usually what we see.

Defining roles within that internally and externally. Who's going to be in charge? How is that going to be agreed upon? Again, I talk about these cooperative agreements or memorandums of understanding that we get between two agencies or multiple agencies where we know exactly who's in charge.



I think the protocol I just reviewed from a team, if their CART responds, the agency that they respond to is in charge of the incident. So it's what is agreed upon and what you see as being the right thing to do.

Search, canvass, and rescue. Real quick. Anybody out there, put it in the chat if you are, but anybody on a search and rescue team that's on our training today? Yeah. Good. Yeah, we've got at least one that is part of a search and rescue.

I can tell you that when a child goes missing, what do you do? You search. You look for that child, and you attempt to find that child. That's the biggest part of what we do within a Child Abduction Response Team deployment is that search mechanism.

So being able to have a search and rescue team within your community-- some of you might have those kinds of teams. They need to be part of the Child Abduction Response Teams.

Canvassing. Just to give you an idea for those that maybe don't know that, searching, we're looking for the child. We're searching a field or we're searching buildings or we're looking for that child. Canvass is where we're looking for not only the child, but we're looking for those witnesses.

The canvassing operation is usually done by law enforcement because sensitive questions or questions that might be potentially incriminating are asked. So law enforcement usually does the canvass side of it. But as far as search, there are experts out there, folks, that are very, very good at what they do when it comes to search and getting a search team organized.

Also, what you need to consider in this is if you're searching for a child and you recover that child and medical attention is needed, do you have folks that can stand by? I go back to the Maci Lilley case that I explained earlier, that I talked about. In that case, Maci was found. And she was found alive, but she needed medical attention.

And we didn't have that right there. We had to request it through the sheriff's office who had to call out the volunteer EMTs that were in that community. And really, it took a little while, and we didn't really anticipate that in our plans.

So what's important is if you get a deployment, part of your team could be that rescue-- that rescue feature. A lot of our teams have fire departments on their team. Fire is good at command structure. They're also good at searching. And they can be a great force multiplier for our Child Abduction Response Team. So think about that. I think it's the major piece of what we do throughout CARTs in the country is that search.

When I got on the Maci Lilley case, when I was deployed there-- and I got deployed through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. A Member of Team Adam, which is a group of law enforcement that responds-- a group of retired law enforcement that will respond to your jurisdiction through the National Center and provide you all the resources that the National Center can provide.

But when I got there, there was a lot of searching going on. There was community members out. There was law enforcement out. Fire, EMS, search and rescue. Everybody was looking.

But there was not a command-- an operational command post set up. And I mean, it was great that they had that many searchers going, but what's the problem with that? That there's no organization to it.

And literally, what needed to be done is that whole search needed to be paused and everybody brought in so we could figure out what had been searched, what hadn't been searched, and start assigning teams. And that was into the morning of day 2 of the search.

So the thing about searches is they can get real large, real quickly. And the more organized you are from the beginning of those, the better off it is and the better off you are of-- or the more likely you are to recover that child. So think about that. And I know there's a search person on today, and we thank you for your ability to do that and to help out because I'm sure you've had a lot of training in those kinds of things with big searches. So very important component of our Child Abduction Response Teams.

Training. This is important. Of course, it's used to sustain our team, to bring our team together once in a while, every six months or so, to sit down and go over not only how our CARTs doing, but also bring in some kind of training.

And I can tell you-- and my friend Jen there at the beginning, she gave me a QR code that you can get to all of our training through that QR code, or you can go to [ncjtc.org](http://ncjtc.org), and you can look at all of our training. If you have a training need-- you started a Team, You're operational, and now you need training of some kind, we can come in and offer that. And again, all of our training is free provided under the grant through the US Department of Justice.

So you can do a lot of different things to bring your team together. We just had a team that came together and they did four hours of canine-- canine search techniques, or something like that. I can't remember the exact name that he called it.

But they brought their team together. The search dogs that belonged to a private search organization came in, and everybody got to learn about the functionality of these dogs and how they search. Great training. Really, a good training for the entire Child Abduction Response Team.

So any type of training that you need, it's important that not only you bring the training to your CART team, but you also keep record of that. Who's got what type of training?

And when you start a CART team, you obviously want to start a roster of people and what agency they're with. But also, you want to make sure that you keep up with their training and you document that kind of training.

Yeah. And we also have associates that are subject matter experts when it comes to tribal community training. So getting our SMEs out there that are all over the country in tribal communities talking about various resources that they've seen within tribal communities that can come in to your community and talk to you specifically about what they've seen, the different kinds of resources that are out there.

What are-- I think one of the most effective things we do is run tabletop exercises. We have those that are customized to tribal communities.

So bringing in one of our associates and having them run you through a four-hour tabletop exercise to really see what resources you have. It's a good exercise to do because really, what it does is say, OK, what are we lacking in our community? What do we need? You're taken through an actual child abduction, or basically a tabletop exercise that's based loosely on a child abduction. You're taken through that.

And what our SMEs do or our associates, they have you go through and define what you would do next, what resources you would need to have. So we can bring folks that are very knowledgeable in all aspects of tribal training and considerations there. So that's something that I think is really effective when it comes to our training.

Legal issues. All of our Child Abduction Response Teams have usually a prosecutor that's involved. And why is that? Because if we have a child that's missing, and let's say we knock on a door and somebody answers it and you say, hey, we have a child that's missing. Can we look around your house, your property, those kinds of things? And that person says, no, you can't come in here, what do we do then? What are the things that we do then? So it's really good to have a legal component to that.

Equipment. Having equipment either within your community or that somebody else can provide and bring in. It's important to have a list of that equipment that you need to deploy properly when a child goes missing. Those things-- searchlights, drones, SUVs, or side-by-sides, I guess they call them now, or four-wheelers.

Maintain a list of that, of all that equipment. And then go back every so often and make sure that everything's on that list. Because again, CART is about getting out there effectively and efficiently and quickly, so we want to make sure that we have that inventory for our equipment at the ready already.

Availability. We can all say, yeah, we've got drones. We've got helicopters. We've got this, that. But what if they're not available? What do you do then? Having that repetition, having-- if A is not available for a dog or a canine, then we can call B team in, and they have dogs if A team's busy. So making sure that we keep up that inventory.

We'd like to see protocols when it comes to forming Child Abduction Response Teams. What needs to be in those protocols? These 12 things that I'm going over right now are the protocols. What is needed to form your team are these 12 components.

And really, what we look for-- and we have samples of these SOPs that you can-- we'll send you. And a lot of times, you talk about policy and people. Oh, gosh, the policy's tough, and it's hard. And we make it really, really easy because it's already been done. We have templates that you can use. Absolutely, Kim, I can send you over an example of our SOPs after the call, I'll get your contact information and send that over to you.

But yeah, we have templates that you can use based on what other people have done, based on what other people have already done. So that's very easy. And I know policy sometimes can be kind of ugh, you know? But we try and make it as easy as we can.

Victim assistance. I think this is really important to make sure that we have somebody to be there for the family, somebody to liaison with that family during the incident while their child's missing. During the Maci Lilley case, we had a victim specialist from the FBI that was used for the family and used for Maci's grandmother to be a liaison between law enforcement and the family.

And really, that was very effective because not only was Maci's family informed of what was going on, but we have to make sure that if the victim's recovered that they have resources as well. But it's very impactful to the community when something like this happens, so we've got to make sure that we have that element. So counseling.

Reunification. That's a big one. If we get a child that's missing, and they've been missing a long period of time or a short period of time, no matter how long, we have to plan that reunification process. And I'll tell you, in the Maci Lilley case, Maci had some injuries. She needed medical attention.

Grandma wanted to go up and see Maci at the hospital, but she just couldn't go in there and say, oh, hi, Maci. We needed to prepare Grandma for what Maci's injuries were and what needed to be done with Maci at the time.

So that was a process that they had to work with the grandmother in that case to bring her to reunite with Maci. We can't just say, OK, there you go. You're back together. We've got to have a process to it. And we go deeper into this within our training and when we talk about reunification.

Lastly, the community. How can we get our community involved? We'll go more into this when we talk about community-- tribal communities. But again, it's going to affect the entire community if we've got a child that goes missing.

So what can our community do? And this is important to do outreach and say, hey, we've started a Child Abduction Response Team, and this is how you can help. We need people that might be able to volunteer to get us food, water, those kinds of things that are necessary for our searchers.

We may meet-- we may need you to come out and do a search of a field. Of course, with law enforcement there, a very guided type of search. But those are kinds of things where your community can help out. They can distribute flyers. But they have to be part of the team, right? They have to be part of your overall CART concept. So involved in the community.

Because then they know. Then they don't just-- they don't just respond and respond all willy nilly. They know that, hey, we have a CART team. They're asking us as a community to be involved.

And we know already how we can get involved in that because they've told us. They've done training with us. They've met with us. And we know that we can get involved, and this is what we can do to help them out. So that's the community involvement of it.

Challenges, considerations or challenges for CART in Indian country. We'll talk about this real quick. Jurisdictional considerations. I think that's kind of-- in any jurisdiction can be kind of-- not a problem, but a question. Who's going to be in charge? Are there going to be nontribal agencies involved within your CART? If so, who has jurisdiction over that?

And that's why these agreements are so important, because if we form our Child Abduction Response Team without agreements, then when we respond, there's going to be some confusion about what we're supposed to do or who's supposed to do it. So that's why those MOUs or agreements or handshakes are important because we've got to make sure that everybody knows what to plan for when that happens, when that-- when that team is deployed.

Environmental landscape issues. A lot of tribal communities are rural. I know that our community, our tribal folks here in Montana, it's very rural out there, and they may not have street names or roads that are marked. You can ask for directions, and it's the one that's three houses next to the post office. So there are a lot of rural communities out there, a lot of rural tribal communities out there.

Also, we have the weather. Here in Montana, it can go from, I don't know, Jen, what? 70 above to 30 below in, like, minutes. We've all experienced that in our great state. So you've got to be ready for that kind of thing. How are we going to be ready for that?

And climate can change quickly. We experienced it in the Maci Lilley case. It went from way above zero to way below zero. And luckily, we found her before the bottom dropped out of the temperature. And it was minus 15 below that night, the night of her recovery. So we're lucky to have found her, you know? And those are factors in any missing child case.

But also, we see a lot of that rural-- those rural tribal communities and the challenges that we face as a result of being rural. Cell phone reception might be a little spotty. How are we going to deal with that?

Tribal Rangers. I know that when I was in New Mexico with the Navajo reservation, they had Tribal Rangers that are trained, and they're aware of tribal land boundaries. And they were a very big asset to that Child Abduction Response Team there. So think about that as far as resources. Who do you have there that can assist with that?

Cultural considerations. I know in the Maci Lilley case, we were going to search a cemetery. And we had a search team ready to go in, and somebody said, wait a minute. There's some things that we need to do before a bunch of people enter into that cemetery.

And something I didn't know, but one of the tribal elders came to the site. He did a blessing, and we were able to search that cemetery. So really being aware of those considerations.

And not only that, that other people on your team, if you're going to bring people that are nontribal people, that they understand what those ceremonial significance are not only of the land, but people. In Wolf Point when we were working on that case with Maci Lilley, they knew-- tribal law enforcement knew which people to ask questions to. They knew how to go to the family and approach that family.

Those are very important things that not everybody understands. So it's very important that when you start your team that everybody's on the same page on different things that need to occur when it comes to cultural considerations. Sometimes there's language barriers there that may need to be addressed.

Family considerations. I kind of talked about that. Approaching the family, having somebody talk to the family. We were lucky in the Maci Lilley case. We had one of the tribal elders that was able to help with Grandma, was able to help with the family, and knew the family very well. So those are things that we really benefited from during that.

Ceremonies, community events, pow-wows where you have a lot of folks-- a lot of folks out in the community. Those of you that have been to a pow-wow or a state fair or something like that know that kids wander off. And how are you going to incorporate your Child Abduction Response Team into those big events. And obviously, it's important that they are involved in those.

And then we have high-risk victims. Native American children, high-risk victims, runaways, kids that are caught up in trafficking, those are all things that your Child Abduction Response Team can come together to address, to address to your-- not only your community, but within your team. What's going to be important for your team to know about high risk? And what can you do as a team to really address that?

So implementing CART. How do we do it? We've got to get buy-in, not only from law enforcement, but also our tribal council. Getting buy in, approaching the tribal council, talking about what the team is, what it does. And we have our associates that can come in and help you with that, or myself. I can help you with that by doing just a short, brief presentation to your tribal council or your tribal leadership.

Really, that's what it comes down to is, are they for having a team? And most people are. Most people say, well, why wouldn't we have a team? But really, law enforcement, tribal council, leadership, community in general, they really need to know what it is, and how is it going to function?

And is it going to be something, especially when it comes to administration, is it going to cost us anything, you know? All of our training, again, is free. But it's something that I think a lot of people say, why wouldn't we have a Child Abduction Response Team?

Also, attending the in-person CART training, the Child Abduction Response Team training. Right now, it's three days. We've recently revamped our curriculum and we're waiting for the Department of Justice to give us the seal of approval on it to move forward with it. But right now, it's three days. That new curriculum will be two days. But really, that's the important part of starting a CART is making sure that your members attend that basic CART training.

Also, the CART implementation guide, which is out there online. You can see the-- if you go to [amberadvocate.org](http://amberadvocate.org), there is a tab that says CART. And you can go to Resources, and you'll find that implementation guide on there. And it talks about how to implement a CART. Kind of what we talked about today, but what are the important things you need to know in order to start up a CART, in order to get a CART going? So again, that's an online resource that we have for your review.

Talk about team structure. I got off the phone yesterday with somebody in Florida. They want to start a new team. They belonged to a team before. They kind of don't now, but they want to start their own team.

So we talked for a long time, and she-- the officer said, who should be on the team? So we did the same activity that you and I just did here, is we talked about that team structure. So talk about that. Who's somebody that should be on that team, somebody that should bring a resource to the table?

Develop protocols. Again, everybody's like, no, I don't like protocols. I don't like protocols. But truly, we will help you with those CART protocols. We have our associates. We have CART liaisons that are very good at putting these together.

And again, you're not reinventing the wheel when it comes to these types of-- when it comes to protocols, because it's already been done. And utilizing us for support and utilizing our team for your support when you're going to the tribal council, or you're creating your SOPs, or you need to talk to the community, that's something that we can help you do for sure.

So implementing-- implementing a CART will really help in your response, your overall response to missing children. Again, it's that effective, efficient, organized fashion to respond when a child goes missing.

And really, we've seen a lot of success with these teams around the country with their ability to respond. Because I can tell you that when you respond to these cases, in the beginning they're very chaotic. There's a lot of stuff going on. You have a child that's missing, and you have a lot of stuff going on, because our number 1 goal is to recover that child or bring that child home. And with that, we need to be organized to do that.

So really, CART, it supplies you the resources and the organization before you ever get that call. So before you ever get that call, that missing child, you'll be able to have the structure in place. And that saves us time.

And we all know, people say time is of the essence in these cases. Absolutely, it is. We need to get organized and get our resources in place before that child ever goes missing, before we ever get that call. So making sure that we have a solid plan, organizational plan, good team members, constant updates, and-- not constant. Every so often updates and training and things like that that we can bring in to refresh our team.

Implementation. If there's challenges to that, it can be overcome. We've had teams that are out there that said, oh, you know, we tried to start a team and it just kind of faded away, and we just really don't know where to go from here.

Well, we can overcome those challenges. I always tell people that, hey, you're not going to have to do this on your own. We have folks out there that can help you. I'll come and help you get it going and really to help you with the encouragement. But usually, it's a pretty easy thing to do. What do they call it? A no-brainer, I guess, is what they call it.

But it's important to also engage your community because we all know, at least here in rural Montana or rural tribal communities that definitely, you have to have the community involved. And if you don't, if you leave them out for some reason, they'll get involved, and it may hinder that whole thing that you're trying to do.

So explore how you can get the community involved, how they can be involved, what it is that they can do to help you with your mission of finding a child. So making sure the community's involved.

So we're to the end. Can we believe that? If there's any questions that you have, please put those in the chat. You can see that my contact information is there. Take a picture of it on your computer screen. Jen's pictures a lot better than mine, so there is that. But take our information down and definitely reach out if you need something, if you'd like us to send you something. The templates I know Kim wants for the SOPs. We'll definitely do that.

But yeah, there's our contact information if you have any questions. Again, make sure you go to that [ncjtc.org](http://ncjtc.org) or the [amberadvocate.org](http://amberadvocate.org) to see our trainings and things like that. So that's all I have. I don't see any questions in the chat, Jen.

I haven't seen any either. I've been looking.

I don't have any other-- anything else to add, Jen. So I appreciate everybody's time today. I really appreciate you being on the webinar. And this is something that's really important and something that takes a little while to implement, but it's worth it because you get a great response when you get a missing child. But I thank y'all for what you do every day, and please reach out to me if you need anything. So I'll kick it back to you, Jen.

Absolutely. Just a couple reminders before we close for our attendees today. For additional information on general TTA services, links to featured offerings, and to request TTA services, just visit our website. And finally, just watch your inbox for information on upcoming webinars and virtual opportunities.

Thank you, Derek, so much for just taking the time to share your knowledge. Thank you to the attendees today for joining us. And we hope that you can join us for future webinars. This will conclude our webinar. Have a great day.