

Webinar Transcript - Missing And Endangered Youth In Indian Country

Welcome to the National Criminal Justice Training Center webinar-- Missing and Endangered Youth in Indian Country. My name is Tanea Parmenter. I will be moderating for you today.

The course was developed by US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and its AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance program. The opinions, findings, and conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication, program, exhibition are of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice. In conjunction with our mission, our webinar series works to bring together state, local, and tribal subject matter experts to present and discuss critical issues related to missing and abducted exploited children.

I'm pleased to announce our presenter today, David Chewiwie. David is a project coordinator for the AMBER Indian Country Training and Technical Assistance Program at NCJTC. He is a tribal member of the Pueblo of Isleta tribe in New Mexico and a Marine Corps veteran. He served 32 years with the Orange County Sheriff's Department, where he worked many assignments, including patrol, investigations, special investigations, gang enforcement, and special operations.

In retirement, he began to work as a Team Adam Consultant with NCMEC, where he's been the CART liaison for San Diego and Orange counties and active in native outreach. He also became a native missing advocate and crime survivor advocate in. His native missing network has provided consultation, advocacy, training referrals, and actual search assistance to Native families who need assistance in the MMIW and MMIP situations and incidents. Thank you for joining us today, Dave. That time is now yours.

Thank you Tanea. And thank you to everyone that's on right now on the training and presentation for today for at-risk, missing, and endangered youth in Indian country. I want to thank you all for taking an hour out of your busy schedules because it's a very important topic for today. And so it's important for all of us, I'm sure. And so thank you.

As Tanea was mentioning in my bio, I've worked in law enforcement, worked with Team Adam, and also with my own missing Native network and now working here at NCJTC. I wanted to put this together because I know that one of the topics that we cover a lot is our children that go missing-- missing and abducted children-- and obviously, a very big concern.

But the reason I want to put it together is because, as many of you know, a lot of our missing are what we often refer to as runaway, those that leave their homes, leave foster care or other locations where they're at, and then are often exploited by traffickers or others, other criminal elements or others that are out there. And so that was-- what I was hoping originally when we heard of the tragic incident with Emily Pike, and I'm sure all of you are familiar with that, was to put something that would honor her.

But we also put together something that was a little bit broader, a little bit more general, so that we could cover other types of situations where Native children have gone missing. I believe, in my opinion, and I'm sure it's shared by many of you, that our children-- that runaway that are missing are all endangered because they're all being exploited by somebody out there.

So one of the things that I wanted to also emphasize that today's training, there's enough material to cover a four-hour block of training. So I'm going to try to cover as much as I can as it relates to prevention, preparation, and response.

If you take nothing else out of today's training, if you take away prevention, preparation, and response, that will help you to build or build upon what hopefully everybody will eventually have in all tribal communities, and that's a tribal community response plan of some sort, whether it's informal or whether it's very well-planned through emergency management and those type of things, with the Child Abduction Response team and all of these different things. It's important that every tribal community have some type of a tribal community response plan.

So what we're hoping to do today is just discuss some of those missing and endangered cases in tribal community, or types of cases. What are some of the vulnerabilities that we have in our tribal communities and some things that are specific to tribal communities? And then just understand what are some of those resources that are available that are out there that maybe haven't been considered yet.

So we know that Native American children who run away are at risk of being trafficked, sexually exploited, exploited in a lot of other ways, like I mentioned before. And those that have had contact or have been in the child welfare or foster care system are at a greater risk of sex trafficking, exploitation by different types of groups or individuals. And there's a lot of different ways that traffickers and others, exploit families and the systems to lure children into human trafficking.

It's important that as I go along and I talk about some of the different areas where children run from, that we all realize that no one is being blamed. The whole goal is to try to see what are some of our vulnerabilities in different areas, and how we can hopefully prevent, prepare, and have a good response when a child goes missing.

Because like I said, these are some of the areas where we go missing from. And as we train and we prepare for those incidents of a stranger abduction or some type of critical missing, the reality is that the vast majority of those children that go missing are those that we consider endangered runaways.

So if we look at what are some of the causes of children that run away, we look at neglect, severe conflict, negative parental, family, or caregiver relationships, negative environments, health issues, mental health issues, substance abuse, luring.

We look at physical or sexual abuse, familial trafficking, lack of feeling safe or supported at home, economic stress or uncertainty, relationship issues outside of the home, issues at school-- grades, attendance, social issues, disproportionate involvement with the child in welfare and criminal justice systems, mental health issues, substance abuse issues, things like being suicidal, those kind of things.

We look at broader issues like lack of funding for tribal preventative programs or initiatives, different types-- a broader look at lack of opportunities on tribal lands, and also, generational trauma. It's also very important to understand some of the push and pull factors where what causes children to leave the home environment or the foster care or other areas where they're being cared for.

It's important to know that leaving care or running away, it's often a trauma response. And so we want to understand things that caused them to leave. And some of those are what we call the push and pull factors.

Some of the pull factors that would pull away a child from the home or from the foster care or other areas where they're being cared for would be things like online grooming or enticement; emotional and material support offered by traffickers when some of the systems fail; feeling seen or validated or cared for; being manipulated through some of those needs that they feel might be met by someone. And those are some of just the things that would pull them away.

Some of the things that would push them away from that familial environment or from foster care or other care would be things like abusive environments, chaotic or unstable home lives, lack of emotional support or connection, and unmet basic needs that youth may have.

So if we recognize some of these factors, it helps us to avoid some of the blame, some of the judgment. And it helps us to inform us on, what are some of the strategies that we use? Because when we talk about prevention, preparation, and response, we want to look at the whole thing holistically.

We want to be able to say when we have that response, that we have a recovery-- hopefully, a recovery method or mechanism in place to where we can help to hopefully prevent this incident from happening again or reduce the risk of something like this happening again. So it helps us with our own strategies that we put in place.

When we look at some of the challenges and some of the obstacles that are specific to Indian country, reporting is a really big issue. And it's really sad to say that in this day and age, actually reporting and jurisdictional issues are really big. Jurisdictional issues, a lot of times-- and I'm sure many of you have seen it-- where in a lot of communities, there's confusion as to who we're reporting this child missing to.

What's the agency that we're reporting to? Tribal, non-tribal? Is it getting reported to the tribal community? Is the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children being notified? And who takes the report, those kind of things. And just so we're clear, if a child-- if there's a report to be taken, those police agencies must take those reports without delay.

So another issue is usually large and often rural tribal lands. If you look at areas like Navajo Nation, for example, spanning four different states, many different counties, obviously, that presents an issue when it comes to things like reporting jurisdictional issues. Things now like Native-specific alerts. Washington has a Native Missing Alert. California has a Feather Alert. New Mexico and Arizona have Turquoise Alerts. But there's a lot of specific questions on how these work and how this affects the dissemination of that information when a child goes missing.

Obviously, there's a lot of resource challenges in a lot of our native communities. If you go throughout different Native communities throughout the country like I have, you'll see there is a vast, vast difference between some communities and the resources that they have or don't have, the personnel that they have available, a lot of the different resources that are out there.

Broadband issues, internet access and availability has been a big issue. It's not only a big issue with the resources that we have with our law enforcement, all of that. But one of the things that it creates is a big vulnerability for parents in tribal communities. Because if we're behind on information, or if we're behind on Wi-Fi, broadband access, internet access, our children aren't. Our children learn fast, and they are vulnerable to different predators through many different types of methods on social media, gaming, a lot of these different things. There's a lot of vulnerabilities.

And as parents, because our communities have lacked broadband, Wi-Fi, internet, a lot of the parents don't know what those vulnerabilities are. And if we don't know, then we don't know how to mitigate some of those things. Cell phone service, equipment availability, infrastructure limits-- a lot of those things are some of the vulnerabilities that we have.

So some of the-- just a few stats that I want to read. And before I do, I want to remind you, and remind myself, probably, that when we're looking at this, we want to know that these numbers are only as good as the information that's reported. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, or NCMEC, will take this information to try to use it to see how we can better respond.

But like I said, a lot of it is only as good as the reporting. So the reporting is extremely important. And it's also important to remember, obviously, that these are missing children and not just numbers.

In 2023, our NCMEC Cyber Tipline received 36.2 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation online. So a lot of that is luring. A lot of that is extortion, a lot of these things that are leading to some of those pull factors that I was talking about. Online enticement also increased more than 300%.

According to the National Center, Native children comprise 294 of the 28,845 children reported to the National Center. 32% had two or more missing incidents, 46% suffered from mental illness, and 25% expressed suicidal behavior. So of all of those children that are missing, 92% are endangered runaway. One in seven of those missing are being trafficked.

And another important statistic to remember is that Black and Native American children are overrepresented in foster care and can make up-- and they make up a disproportionate amount or number of missing children. So just a few statistics.

So let's look at prevention. So when we look at prevention, and we look at it at some of the things from our tribal community events. We know that a lot of our tribal communities-- and I really support and recommend this-- that we have a lot of different campaign and awareness activities throughout the community.

And one of the reasons why this is important is that it allows the community to come together. A lot of these that I have been to-- I've been invited to a lot of them. And I see that it does bring the community together. It also shows the community what resources there are out there.

And in many cases, I see that a lot of our youth are involved in this. And they want to be a part of it, and they want to help. And they want-- and they take some buy-in. And so I recommend these whenever we can do things-- awareness campaigns and tribal community events, tribal community response plans that are put together as a result of a lot of these things.

Looking at the tribal government websites that show awareness of what some of those issues-- tribal police websites, office information and events. School resources-- obviously, getting the word out there in school about some of the dangers; intervention resources. And also looking at partnerships and connections with the National Center to be able to see and show parents and show caregivers what's out there, what kind of things that we can use to prevent a lot of these things.

So when we look at internet safety and awareness, there is-- this could be an entire class in here. I'll mention a few of the things. When we look at internet safety and awareness, I talked a little bit about some of the issues with the limited broadband internet, Wi-Fi, and tribal lands. And I'll talk a little bit more when I talk about preparation.

But some of the things that we could put in place to prepare, because the preparation is all about putting things in place beforehand, before an incident does happen, and hoping that we can prevent some of these things. Access is the biggest thing. It's not really people. When people ask about, should I keep my child off of this site or try to prevent them using gaming or social media or whatever, it's really the access that is the big thing.

When we look at their social media and other things, do they have their own account? Do parents have account information? There's a lot of sources of information about how we can do the family sharing on the phone accounts, how to best monitor what they're doing, what they're seeing on social media, gaming, and other platforms.

We also look at-- so what are some of the things that are out there? We want to have family discussions about internet use, internet safety. We want to have a written discussion, as we want to be able to have-- to see what the vulnerabilities are and what the risks are, how parents can be a part of it and help keep the children safe, assessing those dangers, the risk mitigation.

We want to have buy-in from the children as well, from youth, on what they're doing and who they're communicating with, those kind of things. Obviously, some rules-- setting screen time limits; promoting physical activity, just getting out and doing other things, limiting that time with the buy-in.

And I heard something recently about internet use which kind of caught my attention when somebody was talking about parents limiting some of the smartphone use, social media use. And someone had said that youth will often say, well, my friends are on social media. I'm the only one that's not on there. Or my friends are using these type of platforms and everything, and I'm the only one that's not using it.

And one way-- one good response for parents is the safety aspect. A lot of people say, a lot of parents will say, well, that I can't really limit or take away that phone or limit the use-- social media time or any of that, because that ship already sailed. But if we look at it in a safety issue sense, if that ship had already sailed, wouldn't we want to just correct it, turn it around, because it's a safety issue?

And the same thing when we talk to our children. There is something here that part of it is not safe. There are things here that are not safe. Let's take a look at it, and let's see how we can use it best or limit it so that we can keep you safe. And that's one approach of doing that.

And along with that is establishing some of the screen-free zones or times, like meals, bedtimes, those kind of things; encouraging youth activities, cultural activities, reconnecting with the culture, with traditions, having our children buy into that and be a part of it and building the stronger community, but also building stronger safety and risk mitigation.

And then also advocacy and volunteering. When our youth are involved in those things, they have a sense of purpose. And so those are some of the things that I would recommend as well.

Here are some risk resources. These sites-- obviously, the AMBER Advocate I use for so many different resources, not only because this is where I work, but also because there are so many different resources that we can use, not only for law enforcement, for advocates, for families. There's something in there for everything.

If you look at the ICAC-- I-C-A-C Task Force-- excuse me-- there are great resources for families to be able to go in there and see, what can I do about keeping my kids safe online? And also-- and I'll mention NCMEC.org over and over as I go, because there are so many things-- when I talk about prevention, preparation, and response, there are so many things that we can look at as far as our community, as far as our families, as far as law enforcement advocates, organizations that have something that everyone can use to keep our kids safe.

So when we look at preparation-- prevention, preparation, and response, in looking at what we can do to prepare ahead of time to put things in place to keep our children safe. So we want to be able to assess the needs, put things in place before an incident reduces the-- reducing that response and coordination time.

Most of you, or many of you, have seen our program where we go out and we do what we call a child abduction tabletop exercise. And the purpose of that is for everyone to do a self-assessment of their needs in their community, whether it's resources, whether the need is further training. How do you get that? What resources are out there? How do we obtain some of those resources? And so that's what the preparation is, putting those things in place before an incident happens.

So when we look at foster care, some of those things that we can do to prepare. We know that there are already protocols. We know that there are state protocols. There are federal protocols, tribal protocols.

But one of the recommendations that I would make, and after having spoken with people in many different communities, is some of that consistency on the reporting, on the follow-up when children are at risk, or we have those vulnerabilities, or when they go missing, things like reporting to NCMEC, NamUs, NCIC, BIA/MMU, having maybe a comprehensive review of what the protocols are.

And we are putting one example Tanea is putting up on the chat right now of some samples of some of those policies and some of those protocols [COUGH] and what some states-- excuse me-- are doing to strengthen the policies they have.

If we know that luring, running, human trafficking are a problem at group homes or foster care, then we could start looking, OK, what protocols, what policies do we want to have in place so that it's consistent throughout? And so that's what we hope to do.

The hope is also that we can look at preparation and prevention, things like identifying people that are associated with luring youth that are at risk, previous human trafficking, whether they've lured or that are active in trying to lure others. And then the counseling services.

These are some of the protocols and some of the policies that we may want to look at strengthening-- immediate notification and reporting, tribal notifications. Tribal notification, meaning notification of the tribe and also from foster care within tribal communities. The collaboration between foster care agencies, law enforcement, stakeholders, other partners, tribal courts, perhaps, because we know that some of the issues involve the parents.

And so when we look at collaboration, the possibility of memorandums of understanding and strengthening those connections. We look at task forces. Task forces are good. But unless we have actionable items that are followed through, then it's not as effective.

And also, leveraging some of that collaboration between tribal governments, tribal courts, tribal police chief associations to discuss some of these strategies and implementation. And once again, followed up by actionable items. What can we do in all of our tribal communities?

And I'll say it over and over and again. Reporting to NCMEC is something that is super important because when NCMEC is notified, someone is always looking for that child. So there should never be a time where someone is not looking for this child that goes missing, that runs away.

So we're looking at also anticipating some of the care needs-- mental health, housing, education, identifying some of the strategies that worked before. What worked? What failed? Proactive listening, to find out what were some of those things that lured that child-- the push-pull factors that I talked about earlier-- and ensuring some of that continuity, some of the preparedness, putting those things in place.

And the last part about that is that that plan that we put in place, as we meet with our partners, that it should be adaptable. So it should be something that can change with those needs of those children.

So if we look at parents and guardians, some of those things that we can prepare. The child-- ID kids at any age should be something that we should have for biometrics, for photos, a lot of those things. We should have those things in place. Some of the information available as to what they do, who they're with, those kind of things.

Looking at some of those sites that Tanea just put up, like Enough is Enough, Safe Surfing Foundation, a lot of these different things to see how we can put safeguards in place for our children. Some of the things that we can keep in place, as far as victimology, are their clothing, DNA, social media accounts.

One thing to note also is that if this child has run away before, where did they go before? What did they do? Who were they with? Any little bits of information that we can know that we can have. And like I said before, some of the associates, people that they spend time with, because we'll get little nuggets of information that will be able to help us out-- phones, photos, some of those things.

And like I mentioned before, having things like family accounts, family sharing, family discussions, parental controls, buy-in, and our Cyber Tipline with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children as well. Those are just a few things of many.

If we look at preparation in our tribal communities, having things like a child abduction tabletop exercise. And I'm hoping for a future exercise that also involves this type of missing child. Our exercises right now are more centered towards the stranger abduction, those critical missing.

But I would encourage anyone as you go along and your building your tribal community response plan, that you're looking at something like, what are some of those needs that we have? Can we do an exercise? And determine what are the needs that we have.

Also, mutual aid agreements-- tribal, local, county, state, federal partners, so that we're able to share some of this information. A lot of times, there may be an apprehension by law enforcement on sharing information or foster care. But once we put those MOUs in place, then it makes things easier to have legal agreements that we can share information with. Child sex trafficking training for some of our telecommunicators, and just training for incidents that are specific to your tribe and your specific tribal lands.

Now, there are some areas where we have a lot of different tribal communities in a small area, and regional training is great because it encourages those connections, and reinforces some of those relationships that we have. But it's also good to do something with your own individual community because we all have specific needs and challenges in all of our tribal communities.

Communication with tribal council, foster care, tribal courts, social services, law enforcement. And then the biggest thing, and I mentioned this before, is the biggest thing is having that tribal community response plan. And like I said, it could be something where it's part of your emergency management plan and just one of those branches of your plan. Or it could be something totally separate.

But having that plan and the resources in place will allow for the prevention, or will allow for the risk mitigation. It will also allow for recovery services and resources and promoting the healing, and hopefully, the prevention of the next incident. So that's a very important part of it as well.

Law enforcement-- when we look at some of the preparation, we look at training for the incident and some of the changes that are specific. Working with tribal council, law enforcement agencies, having that cooperation, the collaboration, and the MOUs that I talked about.

Now a lot of states are going to, or some states are going to Native-specific alerts when a child goes missing. If it doesn't meet the AMBER Alert criteria, tribal communities may refer to the-- Washington State has a Native Missing Alert. California has a Feather Alert. Arizona and New Mexico have the Turquoise Alerts.

But it's also very important for our law enforcement community to look at in preparation for some of these things, some really good questions that should be answered and understood prior to looking at one of these alerts-- because there are, like I said, many other alerts. There are other alerts other than the AMBER Alert if it doesn't meet that criteria.

But some of those questions should be when they talk about-- when you look at criteria. Sometimes if it mentions imminent danger, what's the criteria, and what does it mean? And how does it affect different things like imminent danger?

Does it go to social media? Does it go to a phone? How is it sent out? Social media pages, phone alerts, wireless emergency alerts, reverse 911s? Is it a different-- an app, or like something like Nixle or some of these different things.

How does it work? And what is the criteria for sending out an alert as opposed to social media, those kind of things. Where is it sent out specifically, and who determines that? Who's responsible for those requests of where it goes?

One of the reasons why this is so important is because some of our tribal communities span more than one state. So it's important to know that if that Native missing alert goes out, that all of our tribal lands are covered within that alert.

Who's sending this out? Who's responsible for notifying other agencies-- other agencies, specifically? Is there a signup for the alerts? Are people aware that it's actually going out? And like I said, a lot of our tribal communities are in more than one state. So what happens if it spans more than one state? How do we get those notifications?

And then a very big important part of this, because Native missing alerts are trending, and they're something that states want to be able to implement. But it's important to know where the training is. Who has access to that training? So sometimes these alerts will be put in place, but no one's really sure how that works, how a lot of these questions work and where the training is specifically for that.

Another thing that I think that is good for preparation for law enforcement is putting policies in place for mandatory reporting to NCMEC. Some of the reasons why that I'm very big on this is because that somebody's always searching.

There's many different types of resources available, whether it's consultation, assessment, resources, all federal resources embedded within the NCMEC, media resources, getting the word out. And those are just a few of the reasons why it's important to have them.

Also, one of the reasons why is a lot of times, and you've probably all seen this in a lot of our communities, there is an issue with who has guardianship of this child when they go missing. And a lot of times the parent will be out of the picture, whether it's a drug abuse, mental health issues, alcoholism, alcohol abuse, these kind of things. And that parent who has custody won't be available to be able to report this child to the National Center.

If it's law enforcement making that notification, the National Center can assist automatically. And so there are concerns about law enforcement. Well, the National Center is not a-- they're not a law enforcement agency. I can't share information with them.

And it is-- I'll just say that it is possible. I mean, there are a lot of federal statutes and mandates, including the Missing Children's Assistance Act, the Report Act, and others that allow for that sharing of information. So it's very, very important, especially when a child from a tribal community goes missing off the reservation, that they're entered into the National Center, and that part of their policy and protocol is the notification of the tribal community.

Also, action and coordination for the tribal community response plan, emergency management, plugging this in, being a part of your tribal community response plan. And also, child sex trafficking training for 911 telecommunicators. And the reason why is because some of those questions that are asked initially are very, very important to the outcome and the strategy for trying to locate that child.

Some of the most important things in elements of recovering these children are what-- these children-- are what are asked and what information is given to law enforcement by the telecommunicators. So very, very important.

Some of the resources-- Emergency Management, EMA; CART, the Child Abduction Response Teams; CERT, the Tribal Community Response Plan. Community Emergency Response Plan, if you're not familiar with it, it's usually through FEMA-- community volunteers that are vetted and trained in specific assignments and activities.

So I'll go to some of our response because we're going to be running short on time. But for patrol, based on what you know, what assets can you request prior to arrival-- on arrival at the scene confirming that the child is missing, confirming that the information that you received is factual, not speculation, so that you can work with this information to best put all our resources in place to recover this child.

If we're not looking for them, others will. They're not going to be looking-- they're not going to have their best interests in mind. So it's important that we go off of what the facts are, not speculation, but the facts on how and why this child is missing.

Telecommunicators getting the training and using those questions and putting out that information as best you can on why they left and prior incidents; native or tribal community members, those kind of things. And did they run away, or are we just assuming that they ran away? Where are they running to? Why? Some of those questions that we can get answered.

Searching the residence with the consent of the parents, the Guardians, taking a look at what kind of information that we can get to be able to find that child, whether it's prior information from child ID kits, like I mentioned before, photos, social media, phones, a lot of those things, clues as to why they went missing, writings, anything like that.

It's very important that we establish a timeline. Are there any businesses or witnesses available? Transportation centers, casinos, business complexes-- do we have video? I had one not too long ago out of San Diego County, where a lot of really good clues were at the local casino, and also business complexes that were a few miles away.

There's a lot of technology with our fusion centers that we can use, as far as license plate readers, cameras, camera systems and things that are available nowadays that we can use.

And I'm trying to hurry a little bit through this because I know we're going to run out of time here. But it's very important that we establish that place last seen so that we can start working from there. We can start developing witnesses, video, other stuff. We can hopefully establish a vehicle and get a license plate, some of those things.

Getting a situational assessment-- What are the scenarios here that I could be looking at and not speculating, not assuming that it's a runaway? Could it be lured? Are they being trafficked?

Is this an issue of a runaway? Has a boyfriend or a girlfriend, with friends, non-custodial parent, luring, sexual predators, sextortion, and a lot of those different things. And have they run before, and all of the different questions; ensuring that they're in NCIC, that there's abduction flags or information on trafficking.

Looking at our resources pages for our AMBER Alert in Indian Country Program, it's still a good idea even if we don't know that it's an abduction or what the circumstances are that they're doing, that they're missing. They may have been lured, or they may have run away to meet with a trafficker or those kind of things. And it's good to still go through these different checklists to make sure that we're covering all of those bases. It's online at amberadvocate.org. You can find all of those resources on that site.

And then if we do determine that, then we can start looking at, what are the ways that we can be putting this information out, Whether it's AMBER Alert, wireless emergency alerts, missing endangered persons, iPods, reverse 911, iPods through FEMA alert; local, county, state, local enforcement broadcasts because they are--

Once we determine what that endangerment is, we want to make sure that we get all of that information out. Having those relationships with our human trafficking task force is a very important thing. Having a relationship with other task forces or other groups, specialized units that can help us to recover that child is very, very important.

Our MMIP investigators, our MMIP coordinators, those are all very important. A lot of our MMIP advocacy groups-- how important is it to be able to be connected to them when a child is missing or when a child is at risk, vulnerable to some type of exploitation? I know personally, I've reached out to a lot of our Native advocates for assistance, and they have been fantastic.

So patrol reporting, Native NCIC reporting, the state Native Missing Alerts like I talked about before, our Missing alert, our Feather alert, our Turquoise alerts. Reporting to BIA and MMU and seeing how they can help us out in trying to locate that child.

Supervisory responsibilities-- supervisors, when we got an incident where a child may have run away-- we're not really sure-- it's very important to bring in that supervisor to be able to see what are the resources we're going to need?

Help with that assessment-- it could be they may find something that may have been missed in the initial assessment. Why that child left? What can we do? Who do we need to notify so that we make sure that all of the bases are covered, that they're put into NCIC within the first couple of hours, that a complete concise report is written, that we have all of these things in place so that we have the best chance of finding this child.

Also, so that we can have a good-- we can hand this off to our investigative units, and they have the most accurate, the most factual information that they can possibly have. The last thing we want is for somebody to go back over and correct some of our work that we could have done-- initially, we could have done a better job at.

Our investigators play a very, very important role in what we do as far as notification, broadcast disseminations, what resources that we want to bring in. And so it's very important, especially with our MMIP investigators because they are working specifically in Indian country with some of our investigations.

They will look at alerts for social media, news media, reverse 911, tribal alerts. They'll do in-depth look and analysis at what may have happened. And based on that information, how can we best recover that child? I know I'm covering a lot of information. And so there's a lot of things that we'll need to follow up on.

But that investigator will reach out to those specialized enforcement teams, human trafficking circuit teams, gang investigation teams, special or directed enforcement teams, things like that that the investigator has access to.

Some of the things that we wanted to use-- our Native advocacy organizations, like I said, our transportations, our video, witnesses, direction and destinations, some other resources. And if you look at this-- I'll leave this up for a second.

It's very important that when a child goes missing that we're looking at things like AMBER Alert in Indian Country, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and also NamUs, that we make that entry for-- we don't want to think about worst case scenario, but it's important that that child is entered into NamUs.

So obviously, I took a little bit of a sample of each different category when you looked at prevention, preparation, and response. No way that we could cover all of this material in one hour. But what it does, hopefully, is it gives you little nuggets of information and also ideas of different things that you want to continue to build or build upon. If you're doing your tribal community response plan, that these are the things that you can use to build on.

And so I thank you very much. And I don't know if we have time for questions, but I'll hand it over to you, Tanea.

Thanks, David. I appreciate your time. There was a couple of questions that I answered in the Q&A portion already. If you guys have additional questions after this webinar, you can refer to our contact information-- Dave's contact information here on the screen. Thank you again, Dave, for a fantastic presentation and sharing your wealth of knowledge and insight on these cases.

Before we close today, I do have some reminders for our attendees. For additional information on general TTA services, links to future offerings, and request TTA, please visit our website. Finally, watch your inbox and our website for upcoming webinars and virtual TTA opportunities.

This does conclude our webinar for today, and thank you again, David, for such a great presentation. Thank you to our attendees. We hope to see you in the future webinars, and you guys have a wonderful day.