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Your conference call will begin shortly. Thank you for your patience.

Welcome to the Human Trafficking of Individuals with Disabilities conference call. My name is Christine and I will be the operator. At this time all participants are in a listen only mode -- mode. We will have a question answer session later. This conference is being recorded. I will now turn the call over.

Thank you and thank you for joining. I am David [Indiscernible] and I am one of the staff attorneys at the National Disability Rights Network and we are pleased to be able to have this presentation and discussion today on human trafficking. Diane Smith Howard and I have been working on this issue a little bit off and on, especially Diane, over the last few years. We have been more focused on this issue really since this spring when Sarah Bethel who you will hear from -- Sarah Bessell who you will hear from and Tina Vandenberg from the human trafficking pro bono legal center contacted us about the disability aspect to human trafficking. At the annual conference this year we did have a roundtable discussion with a number of people who were interested in this topic and saying how human trafficking relates to the abuse and neglect that the protection advocacy system undertakes. Based on that roundtable, there are a number of people who never really even thought about human trafficking and abuse and neglect together. Seeing human trafficking is more than a international or foreign issue and not being able to always think of the two worlds together, but certainly there is a large neglect component in human trafficking.

We wanted to have this first webcast to talk about some of the issues and some of the overlapping between human trafficking and abuse and neglect and people with disabilities. At our first meeting with Sarah and Martina, one of the prime examples they have used for human trafficking is actually the Henry [Indiscernible] service case in Iowa which many people in the PNA network are aware of. I never looked at that in the human trafficking lens but certainly it does fall within that so hopefully this will be the beginning of that discussion about how the disability advocates in the human trafficking advocates can work closely together. We also are aware that the agency on community living and Health and Human Services is also looking at the disability aspect of human trafficking and ACL is actually involved with federal interagency task force on human trafficking so again seeing how this discussion is now beginning at the federal level and hopefully with advocates on this interaction between human trafficking and abuse and neglect with people with disabilities. I will have our speakers introduce themselves. First I will have Chelsea Rice introduced herself and Sarah Bessell and then our first presenter will be Florrie Burke, and I will let her introduce yourself last and then she will go into her discussion. Chelsea? Thank you to all of you for having participate today my name is Chelsea Rice and I am an assistant United States attorney in Cleveland Ohio in the Northern District of Ohio so the top half of our state where I am a prosecutor and I work in our civil rights unit. I work with

investigators to investigate and prosecute offenses including human traffic came and hate crimes in law violations. One of the prosecutions that I was involved with had a trial and with the United States versus Callahan prosecution out of Ashland Ohio involving several victims, one of whom is a cognitively disabled adults and so I will be speaking about that later on during the seminar. Thank you.

Hi everyone this is Sarah Bethel of -- Sarah Bessell the human trafficking pro bono legal Center in Washington DC. Thank you to David and we are very excited to be here and talking about this with you. In my world of staff attorney at H2 pro bono I research a lot of issues including this topic including disabilities. Also accountability for victims of human trafficking so I am excited to talk to you about trends in the trafficking in persons with disabilities and how advocates like yourself can achieve this accountability for this. Thank you.

Hi everyone my name is Florrie Burke and I am an independent consultant. I have been working on issues of human trafficking since 1997. I have woven a general introduction of myself into this topic so I can provide a context of how these two subjects interact. I began my career as a special education teacher working with the deaf students in Berkeley California. After about 15 years of that, I recognized the need for specialized support for deaf people due to their isolation, lack of understanding, from others, etc. So I pursued degrees later in clinical psychology, and I worked is one of the first mental health clinicians for the deaf on the West Coast. I was in Berkeley during the disability rights movement of the 60s and 70s and worked alongside Ed Rogers and many others to advocate for persons with a variety of special needs. After moving to New York City in the 90s, to be the executive director of the Lexington Center for mental health, my two professional interests and skills collided. In 1997, the case that is known as the [Indiscernible] case broke in New York City. This involved almost 60 deaf Mexicans, who had been held in a peddling ring for up to 10 years making millions in profit for their traffickers, who were also deaf and also from Mexico but with the advantages that education and money bring. I spent two years designing and delivering services to this group and working as part of a multidisciplinary team. This case occurred prior to the trafficking victims protection act of federal law, but in fact, this case and others in the 90s informed the language of the law. This was passed ultimately in 2000 by President Clinton. The multidisciplinary team that responded to this case became a model that persists today in the task forces of law enforcement, health professionals, and Geos etc. working in partnership to prevent protect and pot does prosecute human trafficking cases. As a service provider, and a founder and a director of an anti-trafficking program, I came in contact with for those or supervised hundreds of cases whose victims were involved in different forms of labor and or commercial or sexual exploitation. As a consultant for the last eight years, I have met and or introduced -- interviewed hundreds more survivors of this crime. I now travel extensively throughout the world as part of different faculties and provide trainings and workshops on different aspects of human trafficking, and I have been privileged to be an expert witness in many cases to opine about the dynamics of trafficking of fear and trauma and the impact on its victims. It is interesting that my introduction to human trafficking involved a case where disability presented added vulnerabilities leading to exploitation. Since that time, in 1997, there has been a steady increase in human trafficking cases where disabilities are a factor. I have consulted on or learned about cases where individuals have physical disabilities, cognitive or developmental disabilities, autism, deafness, sometimes a combination of disability and mental illness. Human trafficking is a crime where need meets greed. The victims need

something and the traffickers are all too happy to offer it. Individuals are exploited by force fraud or coercion so that others may profit. It is a crime that robs people of their rights, their sense of dignity and their ability to make choices. Just a few of those vulnerabilities factors are gender imbalance, poverty, lack of opportunity, Civil War, natural disasters, lack of education, homelessness, and lack of family stability, LGBT queue issues. The slide please.

Traffickers exploit these vulnerabilities for their own benefit and profit. And if you overlay disability as -- on to any of these factors, you can imagine why traffickers are increasingly exploiting those persons with disabilities. Human trafficking is a crime of deception and betrayal. It promises for a better life and a good job, decent pay, education, a place to live, close, travel etc. Any of those things may be promised, and the reality is quite different. Victims of trafficking may suffer from physical, sexual, and/or psychological abuse during their time that they are trafficked. Abuse is used as a method of control and the punishment and as a deterrent to escape. Drugs may be used for the same reasons. Traffickers who exploit people with disabilities seem to think that this added vulnerability will be an advantage. Unfortunately, this is true. The following may be impacted by disability status., Unfamiliarity with labor laws and regulations, no knowledge of how to get help, lack of resources or community context, no identification papers, lack of social support, compliance due to power in balance, need for attention and acceptance. And communication challenges. Circling back to the [Indiscernible] case. These 60 deaf Mexicans had very limited education. They used home signs rather than a formal system of Mexican sign language many could not read or write. But they did have StreetSmarts, gained from their years of trying to get by in Mexico. Most were young and in their 20s.

They were forced to live crowded together into houses. They had to peddle trinkets for one dollar each on the subways and on the streets and on -- in the airports. Each had a quota of 100 trinkets to sell per day. If they didn't make that quota, they were denied food or physically or sexually abused. The individuals in this group were given false IDs and those with cognitive delays forgot their real names and addresses over the years. They had no idea of the laws here or their rights or the existence of social services, etc. They had been promised good jobs, and they saw how their traffickers lived well so they thought they too would prosper. Some managed to escape during these 10 years but most of them had no documents or no idea where to go or no resources or common language. So escape to what. A group of four men finally reached their breaking point. They knew things would change and they couldn't tolerate the conditions any longer. They made several attempts to communicate with local police and they went time again but were turned away because the police didn't understand them. Finally a cleaning woman they met while pedaling at an airport helped them write something for the police and this resulted in a successful raid of the two houses, a lengthy wait for justice, but finally a trial that resulted in up to 14 year sentences and then deportation. Restitution was ordered and the wage and hour decision by the Department of Labor did endless computations of the amount of money each one had earned. As far as I know, no one has received a penny. The success of this case was due in large part to a dedicated team and to good resources. The Lexington Center for the deaf provided language instruction, vocational training, job coaching, mental health services, and interpreters as assistants. What we have learned is now with other cases, if prosecutors and service providers would reach out to those who have expertise in disabilities, we could have better outcomes in our cases.

Trafficking seems to be on the rise around the globe. Enormous profit is being made from the labor of others. In the United States currently, there is more attention being paid to sex trafficking. The [Indiscernible] that are doing this workout the service providers, who are coming in contact with the victims, they report that most of their clients are victims of labor trafficking. Prostitution is often conflated with sex trafficking. This draws away on enforcement and victim service resources. There are already anti-prostitution laws on the books. We need to be proactively investigate in labor trafficking. It is my experience that where there is a nexus between labor trafficking in disabilities, it is in the labor sectors. I have seen cases of baking and pedaling, cases of forced labor and construction, housekeeping, add jobs etc. There are cases of young women with about -- development of -- development him mull -- developmental delays.

It is important to remember that victims of human trafficking are found in almost every industry. Including agriculture, domestic servitude, hospitality, restaurants, factory, constructions and sex work. Victims of this kind come from other countries and and up here as well as those who have always worked your. They rarely self identify as victims of the crime of human trafficking. Many are aware that something that is happening to them, but they don't have a name for them. Others are frightened to report, but because of the ongoing threats, by their traffickers there is a big power imbalance. This is between trafficker and victim that is very strong. It can involved, bonding, cultural taboos, immigration status, dependency, and always vulnerability. Statistics on the prevalence of human trafficking both here and in the United States and globally are really just estimates. It is a very hard crime to substantiate with accurate numbers. The international labor organization uses the number of 21 million people as victims of forced labor. 11 million women and girls and 9 million men and boys. They say that 19 million of these victims are exploited by private individuals for enterprises in over 2 million by state or rebel groups.

They in their reports say that migrant workers and indigenous people are particularly vulnerable. This is to forced labor, and I would add that any marginalized group, including those with disabilities are particularly vulnerable as well. There should be an image of the trinket on the next slide. This is what the 60 deaf Mexicans had to peddle. I have said that there is a power imbalance and probably the slides are too hard to read but it is all about power and control and it has been modified to reflect human trafficking.

I think it's imperative that we all move out of our respective silos of either human trafficking or disabilities, etc. We really must collaborate and consult with one another on these cases. In my work as an expert witness, I have had the opportunity to link attorneys with experts from various sectors of disability rights and services. Because of the early Paoletti case I was recognized as someone who worked with these issues. But most of my colleagues had no idea that from is 30 years my career focused on disability trauma and abuse and I was able to work successfully on that early case of exploitation because I understood the victims. My work since then has focused on human trafficking of all kinds. It is always from the survivors centered perspective. I am always pushing to bring in expertise from various arenas. That is what we have to do to stem the tide of this crime and provide services that are designed specifically for those who are victimized. That is why calls like this are so important to bring these different fields together to raise awareness and to move ahead so now, Chelsea will give her presentation.

Thank you, Florrie. That was a really great background of the types of people who can be victims and the type of people who can be the traffickers. What I am going to do in my brief time here is go over very generally what the federal laws are that we work with regarding criminal violations of for human trafficking and then use the case example of the Callahan case, which involved forced labor and that trial was in the early part of 2014. So under federal law, there are - the primary statute that we use or law we use for forced labor is title 18, United States code, section 1589. Without going into all of the different elements that we have to prove at trial, it involves as Florrie discussed obtaining the labor and services of someone through a prohibited means. That prohibited means often involve violence, threats of violence, either to the victim themselves or to someone they care about. It involves threatening abuse of legal process, so if you don't do this work, we will turn you into immigration and have you deported. If you don't do this work, we will report you for a crime that you committed. Generally any scheme or plan or pattern intended to cause someone to fear that something will happen to them or something they care about. There is also separate sex trafficking laws under federal law that prohibits sex trafficking in general and then there is specifically for someone under the age of 18, we don't have to prove that coercion aspect of it. Because I do have limited time I will turn right now to the Callahan case, which as I indicated earlier, involves a young woman who was living in the Ashland Ohio area. The way that this case came to our office is that at the end of October, 2012, she was arrested for stealing a candy bar from a convenience store. When she was arrested, the police officers went to the house where she had been living and she told the officer I am living with Geordie and Jessica ended up being the descendents Geordie Callahan and Jessica Hunt, and they are mean to me. And when they went to speak to Geordie Callahan, he showed the police officers video of this victim, S, E, as I will identify her, hitting her child. Through the great work of Ashland Police Department, and speaking with S.E. they were able to discover that she is very cognitively [Indiscernible] and she was involved in a very bad car accident when she was 16 years old and suffered a traumatic brain injury. So her cognitive abilities, there were different estimates but it put her anywhere before -- between age 11 and age 16. As a result of that, she was on a number of different government benefits programs, including Social Security and other disability benefits.

This case came to us after the FBI became involved because it became apparent that this woman, -- even though she had been charged with child abuse, there was something more going on. What we learned during our investigation is what had actually happened is this adult victim, she had been kicked out of her home and she didn't have any family support and as Florrie touched upon, these are all vulnerabilities we see often in human trafficking cases, and they are victims because the traffickers target them and pray upon their vulnerabilities. And in the case of this victim, she was essentially homeless and she didn't have any family support. She didn't have any job so to speak of. The two primary vulnerabilities were her cognitive disabilities, and that she had a child, whom she loved very much. So what Geordie Callahan and Jessica Hunt did, they knew each other from around Ashland and they offered her initially a place to live with them in their house in Ashland. They took control over the 10 -- S.E. Social Security card and benefits, and had all of that money sent to them. They started telling her lies about no one caring about her, no one looking for her, and over time, because the traffickers and the system in what we see throughout, trafficking schemes, they have to for the victim in somehow. Florrie mentioned the need meet screed. That victims always have some need. In this case for S.E. it was housing and friendship and support. It was also some place where she could stay with her daughter. So over time,

Geordie Callahan and Jessica Hunt and two other individuals who were charged in connection with that case, Daniel Brown and another woman, Desiree [Indiscernible], they took advantage of the defendants, both her disability money that she was obtaining and frankly, her love of her daughters. Over a two-year time period, what we learned through a number of meetings with S.E. and in speaking with a lot of other witnesses who were coming in and out of the house, is that these defendants forced S.E. to clean up after their many different pit bulls, reptiles that they kept, to go to the store and buy food for them. To clean up their house and their yard, to essentially run any and all errands that they wanted. If she didn't do these things, she would be physically beaten. She would be threatened and her daughter would be beaten and threatened. Specifically, the evidence that came out at trial is that among the injuries of Geordie Callahan and Jessica Hunt inflicted on her were beating her, kicking her in the hip, so severely that she had to go to the emergency room, slamming her hand in the door, and then sending her to the emergency room so she could obtain OxyContin and then force them -- force her to give them to the defendants. They bet -- beat her with a fence post and grabbed her by the back of her neck and slammed her head into the counter, kicking her with Steele told -- toe boots. Jessica Hunt had four sons within her -- living with her and they also abused her and her child, who at the time all this conduct was between the ages of three and five years old. They would tie her up and hit her daughter if she cried. One of the ways that the defendants were able to force the adult victim to do all of this horrific work was by restraining her daughter, making sure that her daughter stayed at the house any time the adult victim left. They threatened that if she didn't do a she was ordered, they would report her to children's services and her daughter would be taken away. Overtime, the threats and the violence became worse. In fact, the evidence at trial showed that the defendants ordered S.E. to hit her daughter and as she testified at trial, she did so because she was concerned with what they would do worse to her daughter if she didn't do it. In the -- the defendants videotaped her hitting her daughter and that is what they then used to coerce and threaten her, that if she ever went to the police, they would show this video and they did in fact do that when she was arrested.

One of the obstacles we faced and in preparing this case both for indictment to the grand jury and preparing for trial, was each of these things in isolation, the average juror may think, well, why didn't she just leave? Why did she tell the police? This seems crazy that she would have stayed in this environment. The law and the jury instructions read to the jury indicate that the evidence must be viewed from the viewpoint of the victim. This is taking into account all that victims vulnerabilities. In this case, one of the most significant once was S.E. and her cognitive disability and her limited functioning. And so when she not only suffered physical abuse but the threats from the defendants, this is something that she genuinely believed was going to happen. One of the, I think important things that I hope people can take away from this call, and what we found throughout the case, really is if you see something, say something. This victim over a period of two years would go to the local convenience stores, to buy things for the defendants, and she would have no shoes on in the winter. A lot of our witnesses would say that she really seemed like she was scared and something seemed wrong but no one made any reports. It wasn't until the victim said, I would rather go to jail than live with these people anymore that she was finally able to escape. And testifying at trial, so we obviously met with her, the adult victim, over a long period of time. She was on the witness stand for about three days. She was obviously terrified and her limited cognitive ability was another obstacle in making the jury understand, but she came across as genuine and was able to share her story and the jury did contact Jessica Hunt and

Geordie Callahan. Jessica Hunt was sentenced to 32 years in prison, and Geordie Callahan was sentenced to 30 years in prison. Of the other two defendants entered into plea agreements, Daniel Brown and Desiree [Indiscernible], and they received five years and almost 3 years, and their conduct was substantially less of Geordie Callahan and Jessica Hunt.

As a follow-up, people always ask, when I talk about this case, I should add that working with the local county board of developmental disabilities on this case, the Dinette County Board of disabilities, we have ensured that S.E. has support from them and that housing is given and is working with them and hopefully she isn't preyed upon again and a similar fashion. However, what this highlighted is because she didn't have the support system and there are many other individuals with disabilities who aren't aware of or aren't able to get the services they need, they were -- are vulnerable to potentially that similar type of human trafficking. So as was said earlier, I really think that while there absolutely is sex trafficking that occurs, labor trafficking often gets overlooked and people don't necessarily think about labor. This is something that can be trafficked and about the people who work at the hotels and in restaurants and even in homes as nannies or cleaning people. The fact that it doesn't have to be a foreign citizen. In fact, it very often is a US citizen. It is often the [Indiscernible] of human trafficking. It really comes down to greed and financial motivation. This is a crime about people who see an opportunity to exploit other individuals freedoms in order to make money or benefit themselves. I think that the take away can be what can we do to work together. If any of you are on the call working with clients who use suspect -- you suspect are potentially being exploited, it doesn't hurt to reach out to your local police department or the FBI and I am sure Sarah will go into different ways that people can reach out if they suspect human trafficking is occurring. But on our end as a prosecutor, I can't do anything and the agents at the FBI can't do anything without information being shared. I would be happy to talk about anymore specifics of the case and the work we do here. But at this time I will turn it over to Sarah for her portion of the presentation.

Thank you, Chelsea. I will be following up with a general overview of the trends we have seen and our research. Then I will dive a little deeper into several case studies that illustrate different trends, and then I will finish up talking about remedies. According to the annual United States trafficking in persons report with the report issued by the Department of State grating on every country on their ability to combat and monitor trafficking in persons, it says people with disabilities are especially vulnerable to human trafficking. But what does that look like in the United States, specifically? At the human traffic going pro bono legal Center, we maintain databases of Avril -- every federal civil trafficking case and every [Indiscernible] since 20 oh 2009. In analyzing we noticed an uptick in the number of trafficking cases involving people with disabilities. Upon realizing that we drafted and published a fact sheet which you should have in your materials. This fact sheet, as I go deeper into the trends we will be seeing today, for those who would like to reference it, it includes sites of all the federal cases we have identified.

As Chelsea and Florrie have mentioned, when people think of human trafficking cutting often think of international sex trafficking . In reality, men women and children around the world and in the United States are trafficked that only and to commercial sex but forced labor as well including people with disabilities. Victims within this population are forced not only in to prosecution but labor as well as sexual servitude that isn't commercial in nature but can be prosecuted as forced labor. So rather than the narrative, a typical traffic case looks more like

what they have described earlier and looks like for those these are various images of the different trafficking sectors that we have seen people with disabilities trafficked into. She mentioned the Paoletti case which was the case in New York and Chelsea mentioned Callahan which was domestic servitude but we also saw cases of forced sex and victims forced to work in the act -- agricultural sectors including vegetables and farms and Turkey plans and dairy farms and we have also seen people with disabilities trafficked into the restaurant industry and service industry.

So since 2000 cost since the passage of the trafficking victim protection that we have seen an uptick. For those viewing you can see that in the last six years or so there has been a bit of a spike. The first line is when the trafficking victims protection fact was passed in the second dotted line and 20th 2003 is when Congress created a private right of action for victims. This research specifically is based on the federal docket that identified the victim with disability in the text. So we know this is just the tip of the iceberg. You have -- we have seen cases at the federal level and we have seen 14 cases and we include Henry [Indiscernible] and this even though it was not prosecuted under the trafficking -- trafficking statute but it is very clear instances of his [Indiscernible] in that case so we do include in our data. We have seen at the federal level XI cases in which there is trafficking people with disabilities and at the state level we have identified five more states and this may look somewhat poultry but you have to keep in mind that most trafficking cases go unreported and you compound that with the fact that although people with disabilities are victimized at a higher rate than the rest of the population, they are also less likely to report crime. So that means there are likely many more cases out there that we are not aware of.

So in terms of the types of abuses that we have been saying, that is similar to what Florrie and Chelsea stated, it is about 50 Florrie and Chelsea stated, it is about 5050 between forced labor and forced prostitution when you break down the cases. We see a high level of physical violence at 54% of the cases we noted and -- 64% -- and we can't say this with complete certainty just certainty but anecdotally from looking at the cases and complaints, these victims suffer extreme physical violence beyond what we have seen an typical trafficking cases. Again, that isn't a hard data point that that is what we find reading through these cases. Also, what these trends don't indicate either, because these trends are based on analyzing federal case documents, we don't have in this trend set conversations and data that we would receive from service providers who could potentially interact with these victims and most cases don't go to prosecution or are not civilly litigated. There is more research to be done but this is what we are seeing initially.

In terms of why individuals with disabilities are targeted, one and Chelsea would say it is theft of government benefits. The goal often of becoming their organizational or representative payee. This makes victims of people with disabilities very susceptible to traffickers who are predators. If a trafficker doesn't -- might not necessarily know that a victim has a disability in other cases, but they need to pursue them as being legally vulnerable. On the flipside People with disabilities might find it difficult to report abuse effectively and is often the case with many victims of human trafficking, not just people with disabilities, many victims aren't aware of what they're experiencing is human trafficking. So they may not be reporting it or have the know-how to do so. Lastly, unfortunately there are biases against people with disabilities. They may not be seen as reliable witnesses by law enforcement. And they may dismiss the claims. And a case in New Jersey, this is not a trafficking case, but it was a [Indiscernible] in New Jersey would start with

sexually abusing these funds and the reports made with severe disabilities and emotional problems were dismissed and it was only when the boys without disabilities that they were believed. So we see that often and that is a problem. In terms of the profiles of the victims themselves, they, as Chelsea and Florrie mentioned, lack of family stability is a major factor. So you see many victims who are estranged from their families, victims that have been -- that are coming out of the foster care system. You also see victims within the residential care system. To expand on the point made earlier where need meets agreed, many of these victims are seeking some type of support, either through surrogate families or friendship ties or often romantic relationships. We refer to those as the Romeo traffickers, someone who is out to a victim and promises a romantic relationship and lowers them, often offering them a place to stay and then will force them into either labor or sex.

So how do victims escape? What we are saying is in the Callahan case that Chelsea talk about in which the victim was very brave and she was able to facilitate her own escape, it's a case we love because it shows how victims can take control of their own narrative. But what we have also seen is that the intervention of relatives and third parties is very key. This top image of a low balance sign, the sister of a victim saw that after the victim had been working for over 20 years in a turkey processing plant she had only \$88 and her savings account and that raised red flags. In a civil case, for Smith v. Edwards, a concerned citizen reported the exploitation to social services to intervene. In the U.S. v. Linda Weston case this is a picture of a dark basement and I will be going into more detail but these six victims were discovered by landlord during -- doing a routine inspection. In other cases you see interactions with medical inspect -- professionals. For this emergency room illustrates where a victim went into cardiac arrest after being tortured by her trafficker and was rushed to the hospital and the hospital personnel intervened. Lastly, with the handcuffs image is a case in which they presented initially as a sexual battery charge and upon further investigation authorities realized it was actually a trafficking case in which the trafficker had forced underage girlfriend with intellectual disabilities into prostitution. While victims are able to facilitate their own escape, and are very brave in doing so, there is also a highlight of educating satellite population such as medical personnel or law enforcement or domestic violence shelters and other parties on the signs of human trafficking.

So I am moving now more into a deep dive into some of the case studies. The slide and the next I will talk about missed opportunities. Luckily many of you on the line are very familiar with the Henry turkey case. It was profiled in a book called the boys in the bunkhouse. In this case, and I don't know 32 men with disabilities were forced to work in a turkey induced -- industry plant for about 30 years and what is terrifying to us as advocates is this abuse and exploitation went on for so long and you can send this time minute was a for 30 years and it went under the radar of state agencies and the media for decades. Even as early as 1974, a social worker at the Iowa Department of human services filed a memo and I will read the quote out for those of you watching can't read it Not since the days of slavery have we had an example of the antithesis of normalization as Henry has provided. Warning bells were going off from the beginning. It took until 2009 when the victim's sister discovered that her brother's savings account with the low and reported it to state agencies and then the media for the case was broken open. In this case, the EEOC worked closely with disability rights of Iowa to advocate on behalf of these victims, and so the role that you as a PNA network is so very important and that takes me to the next case which is the U.S. v. Kaufman, which some may be familiar with. This the case that involved

forced labor and sexual abuse and the Kaufman's ran a residential care treatment center for the mentally ill for more than 20 years of you consume a timeline and during that time they sold their Social Security benefits of their patients and charge Medicare for services and as part of their treat and they forced their patients to perform nude manual labor and to record videos of sex acts. It was only really with the disability rights Center of Kansas intervening with their special investigation authorities that they were able to get several at residents to leave and launch an investigation. In that case both Kaufman were sentenced to federal prison and convicted of forced labor and they were ordered to pay over \$500,000 in restitution 300 which when 26 of the victims. Again, highlighting your role as advocates, as a result of this case and a result of Kansas is advocacy, Kansas State changed several laws including enhanced reporting Guardian conflicts of interest to the courts and also greater oversight and licensure of these types of facilities. So you have a -- you are aware and you are -- have very powerful tools at your disposal. Those are two examples were victims were in institutional or care facilities. As disability rights community is moving towards more independent living and community integration we are in new risks of new vulnerabilities. So in U.S. v. Linda Weston this is a case coming out of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and for those of you who are some of you may remember this says the basement of force is how it was referred to in the media. In this case, Linda Westend led a ring of defendants that targeted people with disabilities, specifically to steal their Social Security benefits. That was the main instance of the exploitation. Then they forced two of the victims into prostitution to get -- to get extras like the cherry on top of the Sunday as how what Chelsea alluded to in her presentation. These victims were locked in closets and And they were malnourished and sedated. The defendants would place their food and drinks with sedatives to keep them under control. Eventually, she was sentenced to life in prison +80 years which is a fantastic outcome and restitution was awarded but what is concerning to us in this case is the restitution was awarded to the Social Security Administration. In another case, U.S. v. Bagley, this involved both forced labor and forced prostitution. Oftentimes, a victim may not be the victim of one or the other and they can be victimized in both areas. In this case a young woman with cognitive disabilities was held captive for about six years. She was forced into commercial sex and also forced to work in a strip club as an exotic dancer. Her trafficker is worth what force her into sex in exchange not only for money but meat and cigarettes and corn -- porn and cash and also a component of their victimization was forcing her to sell BDSM videos. And one particularly extreme situation, they tortured her so much that she went into cardiac arrest and was rushed to the hospital and this was the case I talked about earlier. That is why we highlight the training of medical personnel, only on the side of human trafficking but it would be useful for your community, if you are or are already working with the medical field to train them on the specific signs of people with disabilities that may be at risk or are being trafficked. In this case two of the defendants were sentenced to 20 years in prison and ordered to pay over \$700,000 in restitution. It was a good judgment because we believe that restitution is so critical for victims to restart their lives and move on from this type of exploitation.

For those victims that either don't have restitution or in cases in which the prosecutors decide for whatever reason not to go forward with the federal criminal prosecution, Congress created a private right of action for trafficking victims in 2003, and this provides an avenue of relief for victims in the absence of federal criminal prosecution and it allows in many cases victims to take ownership and for victims to sue their traffickers. So we have seen fewer civil cases involving people with disabilities and we have seen three so far and it wasn't EEOC case and the next two

that I will profile. We are always trying to get the word out about civil litigation. And we feel it is such an important tool for victims of trafficking. So in this next case these are two married adults with two cognitive disabilities and Walter strong was the previous conservator. And this was brought on by the new conservator following a state case in which strong was prosecuted and the underlying fact involve the fact that he stole his victims benefits and other funds and use these to buy things like a gas grill and a tractor and a mobile home in the refrigerator. He also performed -- forced the guy to perform manual labor on his small farm. He forced Lisa to perform sexual acts, including intercourse, in exchange for their living expenses. So in this case there was a state prosecution and then the conservator brought a civil case of the court entered a default judgment in favor of the plaintiff in the amount of almost \$700,000. Now much of this has not been collected yet. But it is an important tool in assuming justice and accountability in victims and allowing them to take control of their own narrative.

The last case is an ongoing civil case and in this case there was no criminal action so again heading home that civil litigation provides an alternative form of relief for victims. And in this case the victim was a man with a mild cognitive impairment who alleged he was forced to work in a restaurant cafeteria for five years without pay and he alleged that he suffered significant physical abuse, including being hit by a frying pan, beaten by hot tongs and other hot implements. He was forced to live in various substandard dirty cockroach infested living in that - - conditions. It was only when a concerned citizen call the Department of Social Services that they were able to initiate a rescue of the second. This case is ongoing and we are tracking a closely. If and when there is an update will let David know and he will let the team know.

So in terms of red flags, this list is by no means exhaustive, and I am sure you have your own various lists of red flags of the -- abuse and neglect. Something to watch out for specific to people with disabilities is seeing someone who is the same representative for multiple unrelated [Indiscernible]. Frequent emergency room admissions and isolation and signs of trauma and fear and also again, I would like to highlight the partnerships with third parties such as law enforcement and medical professionals and also areas like domestic violence shelters because in some cases you may see a trafficking victim present a domestic violence or sexual abuse and they may not be aware that they are either being trafficked or they have no other options so it's important to reach out to the communities -- community and advocate them as well. If you're interested in partnering with the community, Katie Spielman of disability rights of California and Cindy Lou and advocate will be putting on a webinar on Wednesday on this topic as well. If you are interested in doing that kind you can go to the futures without violence website. You can look up the login information there.

To wrap up, what to do now? What should you take away and what should you do with this information that we have presented? First of all, if you think or suspect that one of the clients you work with or anyone is a victim of human trafficking, call the national human trafficking resource Center and that is the number up there and they are open 24 hours a day seven days a week and they can get you in contact with providers. There is also a robust rights-based human trafficking system across the country and many regions have taskforces. We encourage you to look for an appropriate local [Indiscernible] to provide services so we can begin to have long-term partnerships between our turn -- to communities. The freedom network is experienced advocates who work with providers of all forms of human trafficking and they have members all

of these icons below are members of this freedom network and they have members across the country. So if you go to their website, you can look on their members page and see if there is a human trafficking service provider near you that you can reach out to and began to develop a partnership with.

So in closing, just -- we are much of this data as I mentioned before is only based on the federal system and we're keeping track of the states and what is coming up to the state courts but we really want to make sure that we are up to date and current as possible on our data and this is an ongoing process. If you know of cases, and they don't have to be cases that we are prosecuting but even if you know of cases where a service provider cases, let us know because we want to make sure we create as a robust profile as possible of the victim population and how they are being targeted by traffickers. This is my contact information at the human trafficking pro bono legal Center. It's crucial for you to reach out if you see anything. I will turn it now over to David for the question-and-answer.

Great and thank you for that very thorough overview, Sarah. Also, thanks to Florrie and trend -- Chelsea for the update and the cases in the history of what has been going on for a while. I have actually a few questions that I will hold off for a moment. We will open up the phone lines and see what participants have questions for the presenters or any comments about any involvement in human trafficking that you may be involved with. This is in your state or work through the PNA.

We will begin the question-and-answer session. If you have a question please press star on your phone. If you wish to be removed from the queue press the pound or hash key. There will be a delay before the first question is announced. If you are using a speakerphone you have to use the handset for pressing the numbers. Once again if you have a question please press star and then the number one on your phone. Our first question comes from Beth. Please go ahead.

This has been a really great webinar. We had a human trafficking situation that was actually called into the Kentucky PNA here and it involved a lady with a pretty significant cognitive impairment who was sexually trafficked. As a result of the trafficking, she gave birth to a child and the way the authorities found her was she hemorrhaged after giving birth and the issues that we have same have been those women who have children who -- women are being trafficked and the mom are being treated like they are perpetrators. What's a really good way that you would recommend that we try to address that? The way that we did it in Kentucky is that one of our advocates got all of the key players to the table and set them down and pushed them to understand that this was a human trafficking type of situation. I am sure there is another way we could have done it.

That is to clarify cut you are saying that law enforcement was not viewing this is a human trafficking case and then you had to educate law enforcement?

Right. That only was it law enforcement that it was also protective services because the victim [Indiscernible] as the perpetrator of child abuse for not getting prenatal care and her trafficker actually stole her away from the hospital. The child was left at the hospital and she was taken into protective custody and then the whole attitude for both local and law enforcement and

[Indiscernible] was, well, there really is no way that this lady can take care of her child because she was trafficked.

Oh, so you are saying that because she was a victim of trafficking, that was a point against her in the custody battle?

Yes. Last --

I have not seen anything particularly like that and I don't know you are working with whoever the local service providers were in that area. There is definitely a need -- a constant need -- to be evaluating players like law enforcement and the justice system on who is a victim of trafficking and also the fact that victims of trafficking should not -- it should not be held against them in any way. Here we work on getting expungement to help -- spread the word and raise awareness of victims who have criminal records for crimes they were forced to commit during their trafficking. It's a constant educational awareness challenge. I think what you guys did to push this as trafficking is exactly right. I would hope that you continue to follow up with these after and in the course of your work.

I would add to that an Sarah I think you are absolutely right. To the person who posted this. This is a really complex issue. I have never heard exactly this fact pattern before but I am not surprised. It really once again points out the need to work collaboratively across disciplines so that things like -- cases like this don't slip through the cracks and that we can educate people about what is okay and how to treat a victim and who is a victim and all the things that Sarah just said. I think actually you did a great job and had a good response in bringing everyone to the table.

Our protection and advocacy as part of a statewide collaboration of disabilities and related entities as well as the domestic violence and sexual assault providers. And so when this call came in, I called the main office of the sexual assault association and said this sounds to me like human trafficking, what do you think? And then we set the ball in motion. It was a big fight that we had.

It sounds like you did fantastic work on that and for everyone on the call that is exactly the type of collaboration that we are constantly hammering home and need to work with partners and other areas like domestic violence and trafficking to come at this from a collaborative standpoint and make a move in educating other actors.

Thank you both.

Once again If you would like to ask a question, please press the*and then the number one on your touchtone phone. We have no further questions at this time.

Okay. I had a few for our presenters. So the first question I had was probably to both Chelsea and Sarah. Sarah cut you mentioned this private right of action that allows for -- it seems to be that only occurs if there is no criminal prosecution. Is that correct? If so, is it typical that in a

criminal prosecution the prosecutor is going to ask for restitution or another award for the victim?

[Multiple speakers] I was going to say I will speak to the restitution aspect of it. I think Sarah will say that no it is not mutually exclusive, that private right of action. It can be done whether there is a criminal conviction or not. I will let Sarah speak to why that may or may not happen when there is criminal cases. But with respect to restitution, so the statute or the law says that restitution shall be ordered to trafficking victims. However, sometimes the victims don't want restitution. We have seen this in cases of sex trafficking where they say, I don't want any money. That just reminds me of all of these things I had to do. I just want to move on with my life. I don't want you to ask for restitution for me. In the case of Callaham, she didn't want restitution. It would have frankly most had gone to the federal government in the form of heard benefits. But then I have had other labor cases where we absolutely did seek restitution, and it was paid. So it really is a case by case basis, and then of course it is up to the judge how they order it and whether the defendant can actually end up paying it.

Yes, I would also say that also for those of you on the line who are worried about the interaction of restitution and how that might impact the victim's current benefits, there are pro bono attorneys out there who are available and willing to assist in these cases but there are attorneys who specialize in public benefits and we had worked on cases not with this victim population but in other areas in which we have set up a -- and worked with pro bono attorneys and a special needs trust so that victims damages award would affect their current benefits. That is also something to consider. I apologize. The action is not usually exclusive. We have seen many cases and which the criminal prosecution and the victim went forward and got civil litigation.

Thank you.

We have no further questions at this time.

My second question is in terms of, Chelsea, you mentioned SCE and having difficulties but the work at trial to articulate the story of S.E. that she presented well in terms of the problem. Any advice or any assistance that the network can offer when someone is stealing with an individual with a disability as a witness? We do have this question come up often when the PNA are involved in litigation and we do have to deal with this as people with disability as witnesses. First, any thoughts and then secondly anyways that we can assist in that issue?

Sure. So the first thing with the -- if you have any liaisons in law enforcement or local state or federal and I should say on our end we have victim witness advocates People who work their primary position is to work with witnesses and victims. So do many federal law enforcement agencies. Or even nonprofit groups like human trafficking pro bono legal Center. People who work with these types of individuals when they are not involved with law enforcement because for us the thing that is most difficult with victims is they see federal agents and prosecutors and initially that is pretty terrifying for anybody but it is particularly someone with a disability. So the more that they can look to all of you, people they trust and work with regularly, and you can say this prosecutor and this agent, they are okay and they are here to help you, that does wonders for us. And then as far as the actual preparation for our court hearing, it depends on the

prosecutor and the situation, but certainly I want to do whatever is going to make my victim and witness the most comfortable and if that means someone, one of you from your organization comes with that individual, for preparation for the hearing, I am all for that. There are things we can ask depending on the court and the judge to accommodate the disability as much as possible. For instance, an hour trial, we ask that they -- S.E. didn't come through the courtroom in the main entrance and didn't have to come into where the defendants were sitting but have a back entrance and the judge allowed that. We asked for a couple of personal items on the witness stand with her. She chose her daughters stuffed animal and then a photo of her daughter that she was able to have with her during her testimony. It was out of sight of the jury but she had them with her to make her more comfortable and I guess that is to say ask questions and talk to the government representative or the attorney you are working with about what options are available to accommodate the individual with a disability.

Thank you. Operator, any other questions?

No further questions at this time.

Okay. One more that I will ask to any of the presenters. So one of the -- Florrie mentioned the need versus agreed issue. And I noticed there has been mention of the public benefits and the attempt to get those benefits. What has been -- any contact with Social Security in terms of how they are trying to exploit Social Security benefits and I guess related to that, what work is Social Security doing in terms of payees where some of these folks, the representative payees for these benefits, they basically just stealing the check or how have you seen this play out?

In terms of what it looks like, it does vary. In some instances, in the U.S. v. Linda Weston case, Linda Weston became the [Indiscernible] for the victims. She stole the money and that weight. In the other case we saw the conservator stealing the funds. And other ways we have also seen like the Callahan case, they were not necessarily the representative payee for the victim but what they did is they held the benefits card and used her and forced her to buy them groceries and things like that with her card.

Right. That is what happened in Callahan and in those instances it is more difficult for Social Security or the agency to detect the misuse. When there is a transfer of the representative payee, I know from that case that we spoke to it Social Security it highlighted for them the need to have a little bit more expensive checking into the relationship between the representative payee and the beneficiary. So hopefully that is something that they have followed up on it certainly in the Callahan case because there wasn't that transfer and it was more difficult to detect.

Good. Thank you. Any other questions before we conclude?

No further questions at this time.

Okay. Any final thoughts?

Well, thank you, Florrie, Chelsea, and Sarah, and hopefully this will be a beginning for further discussion about how we can be on the lookout and assist on the human trafficking issues. Thank you, everybody, and we will be back in touch on this issue.

Thank you. Goodbye.

This concludes today's conference. Thank you for participating. You may now disconnect.
[Event concluded]