

REALTIME FILE

NDRN-Human Trafficking: What It Is and How it Impacts the Disability Community
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>> Sara Bovat: Hi, everyone. Thank you for your patience as we get going here. My name is Sara Bovat. I'm the coordinator of the human trafficking working group. One of the co-founders of the event and welcome to the first webinar of January's National Human Trafficking and Disabilities Working Group series. We would like to thank our co-sponsors for the webinar today, NDRN for providing the services. The National Human Trafficking and Disabilities Working Group in collaboration with professional, self-advocates and survivors from all over the United States work to create resources and address gaps in research, Social Services and legal services for individuals who may have been trafficked. Our presentation today to people in the disability community. We would like to thank those of you who worked with us to improve screening and services with people with disabilities who may have been trafficked.

Just before we begin and before I present the presenters, just a few housekeeping items. We ask participants to keep their cameras off for the duration of the presentation, so there is more screen chase for our interpreter and if you have any questions and are joining us online today, you can feel free to type them in the chat. We will be monitoring that, and we will make sure to address them in some way at the end of the presentation. If you are joining by phone and would like to voice a question via audio, we will invite you to also do that in the remaining time of the presentation at the end and ask participants to stay on mute until then. With that, I would like to hand off to our presenters, Ericka Reil and Jody Haskin.

>> Ericka Reil: I apologize for all of the technical difficulties we are having today. My screen does not want to advance, and I don't know why that is.

>> Sara Bovat: Apologies for the delay.

>> Ericka Reil: There we go. My name is Ericka Reil. I work for the Vermont Center for Independent Living. I work with folks with disabilities who have been human trafficked or victims of sexual and domestic violence.

>> Jody Haskin: Hi, everyone. I am the Anti-Trafficking Program coordinator at the International Organization for Adolescents. We work with programming and training and technical assistance for organizations to help them address human trafficking, how to identify it and how to provide appropriate services and results.

>> Ericka Reil: One thing we want people to be aware of is we have some ground rules. We are to be mindful of the space in the chat box and with questions. Please be respectful of this space, understand this is being recorded and if you would like to speak to ask specific questions or ask things privately, please contact us or contact information is at the end of the slide. Please practice self-care. We realize this is a triggering topic for all, so if you need to leave, please do so, again, we can't stress this enough, if you do need to leave, just leave. This is being recorded. You can watch this later. This is an extremely hard topic.

>> Jody Haskin: We would like to give you an overview of what we will be talking about today, particularly, this information is for an audience of people who live in the disability community,

work with people in the disability community and is basically an introduction to what this crime is and meant to give you a primer to understand how it may impact the disability community. What we will be talking about today is what human trafficking is, what the intersection of disability and human trafficking looks like, some of the legal barriers and the law, some indicators of human trafficking. We will look at case studies and provide some resources and tips at the end of the presentation.

>> Ericka Reil: So, the first thing we are going to ask if people feel like it, write in the chat box what are some things that come to mind when you first hear the words human trafficking?

>> Jody Haskin: We will give you a couple minutes.

>> Ericka Reil: So, if you are looking at the chat box and I realize not everyone can look in the chat box and I did something where I made the chat box disappear on me. Thinking about what you think of human trafficking, human trafficking we get through the media. We may think of young women or girls, perhaps from different countries speaking little to no English, kidnapped or snatched from a parking lot, sold into slavery, perhaps the sex trade or a massage parlor, physically restrained, held against her will, trailers of people being moved across the southern border. I live in Vermont, so for me that is far, far away.

>> Jody Haskin: I see there is a lot of information in the chat. People are mentioning exploitation, we see child sexual abuse, kidnapping, slavery, selling children, violence, trauma.

>> Ericka Reil: Yeah, those are all takeaways that we picture of folks who are human trafficked. Often, we don't think about people with disabilities, which is what we're here to talk about today. There is a clash in our culture that we don't think of people like you, me, the neighbor next door could be victims of human trafficking.

>> Jody Haskin: You might be wondering also why providers serving people with disabilities need to learn about human trafficking and we are here to try to make that connection. If someone is part of the disability community or provides services to people with disabilities or their families, you are in a unique position to try to identify and help the human trafficking situation. Our goal here is to provide you with the tools to understand what this looks like, so you can recognize potential trafficking situations.

We know anecdotally that this crime is happening with disabilities and we understand there are many identifiers and practices that address human trafficking and we know traffickers target, groom based on the needs they have. We will discuss some of the ways that people with disabilities are trafficked and some universal and red flags to note, so this can be addressed.

So to start out, we can get started by discussing some of the common misconceptions, and we can do that with our first poll question.

>> Ericka Reil: Poll question number one. People with disabilities are less likely to report about trafficking. Give you a minute. Is it true or false? What do you think, Jody, is that enough time?

>> Jody Haskin: Yes.

>> Ericka Reil: I'm going to end the poll. So, 99% said true, 1% said false and it is true. People with disabilities may not know how to report or understand the reporting process or be groomed to not trust law enforcement that is very much true. That is a short answer of why people with disabilities might not report about trafficking. It is very sad facts, some people with disabilities are groomed at a very young age. The reporting process is not clear to folks, sometimes it is not clear to somebody without disabilities. People with disabilities are groomed to think that if they report the fact that being trafficked or abused that they will end up in a nursing home, they will have their medications taken away. People will not be able to get their needs met. People will have their money taken away, there are so many factors about why people with disabilities will not report their abuse. So, it looks like we got a little backed up with our PowerPoint. So, what is human trafficking? Human trafficking is the practice of exploiting people as commodities and it is referred to as sexual exploitation, debt bondage or bonded-labor that is the definition. Definitions of human trafficking, trafficking victims act of 2000, sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion or the person is induced to perform the purpose of subjection of involuntary servitude, debt form of such act that has not attain a certain age. They are under the age of 18. The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. This is different than smuggling.

>> Jody Haskin: Also, what you see here is the federal trafficking victims' protection act, so this means that this is what makes it a crime on a federal level. We know each state has varying levels of crime when it pertains to laws against traffic, before photo sex trafficking and labor trafficking. For this presentation, we're going to be referring to the federal law based on the TPTA. Next, Ericka will breakdown human trafficking.

>> Ericka Reil: Human trafficking is the action of recruit, harbor, entice, transport, maintain, advertise, solicit or patronize, basically, how did the person get in the situation? The means, was the person forced? Was it fraud or coercion? Basically, how was the person kept in the situation. Purpose, involuntary servitude, debt, bondage, commercial sex or for what purpose was the person kept in the situation? And then under 18 years of age, recruit, harbor, entice, transport, provide, obtain, maintain, advertise, solicit, what was the purpose of the commercial sex? So, those are the means of human trafficking. You can see it is a lot different than smuggling or basically being a sex worker who is doing it consensually. Human trafficking is not consent. There is a means to an end.

Now, when you're talking about a person with a disability, there is as a third element where somebody might be enticed to traffic somebody with a disability. They might also have the enticement of taking away their benefits, we're talking SSI, SSDI, if they are getting food benefits, if they are getting section 8, they may also be using them for their benefits, talking about being a caregiver, being a payee or hiding under the guise of a family member. It might be another act where we can also -- where folks are also targeting people with disabilities.
Jody?

>> Jody Haskin: We know that human trafficking is a hidden crime and we really only know when and where it happens after it has been reported or when survivors are able to leave their trafficking situation and get help. So, for this reason, the statistics that we provide here are based on the national human trafficking hotline and it indicates the reports that are received, so these can be from survivors of human trafficking themselves or from others who are providing tips to the hotline that turns out to be a legitimate case of trafficking. The map only reflects cases reported to the human trafficking hotline in 2019 and where the location was the potential trafficking was known. Some locations involve more than one location, and this is from the polaris hotline and there have been 63,380 human trafficking cases reported across the United States since 2007. As you can see, this is a heat map, so it can show where human trafficking has been reported and this is where the phone number and information for the hotline has been available and where people have chosen to use it. It may not be completely indicative of where trafficking is occurring as a whole. Next slide.

And these are just some of the indications of the hotline cases that were reported in 2019, so you can see there were 11,500 cases and 22,326 individual victims reported. They indicate the trafficking type, so there was 8,248 of sex trafficking reported and 1,236 of labor trafficking reported and there are also unspecified cases where there weren't quite sure whether it was sex or labor trafficking and there were 1,511 cases of those and there are demographics that indicate the gender of the people that were reported, including females, over 9,000 cases, males over 1,000 case, gender minorities, almost 100 and unknown over 700. The ages of the people in the cases were assaults, 6,684, minors over 2,500 and unknown, 2,234. Again, these are not the direct statistics of the crime itself, but those reported to the hotline, which we find are most reputable and we make sure people know the hotline and in some cases it is law that information for the hotline is posted in public areas.

Next, we will go to see how much you have learned so far. We are on poll question number two.

>> Ericka Reil: Sorry, true or false, to be considered trafficking a person must be moved across city, state or county border. We will give you a couple of minutes for that.

>> Jody Haskin: So, true would mean that --

>> Ericka Reil: True would mean they have to be moved.

>> Jody Haskin: And there is no movement.

>> Ericka Reil: Sorry. So, what do you think, end the poll?

>> Jody Haskin: End the poll.

>> Ericka Reil: Let's end this poll. False, the winner is false, human trafficking does not require any movement and that is correct. You do not have to be moved. Human trafficking can take

place anywhere within a home, an apartment building, there is normal movement required. It can be done out of, you know, a home. Nobody has to be moved. I'm going to stop sharing those results.

>> Jody Haskin: And the next slide.

>> Ericka Reil: So the difference between human trafficking versus smuggling. Human trafficking is exploitation, a crime or violation against a person, contains some element of coercion, subsequent exploitation and/or forced labor. A trafficked person is seen as victims by law and no movement required. Smuggling is transportation, unauthorized border crossing, no coercion, facilitated entry and harboring of a person from one country to another. There is a big difference and why is it happening? Right now, it is estimated that there are actually more victims of slavery now than there were in the past. It is similar to drugs and arms. It is low risk, high yield, can be hidden in plain sight, not always seen as a crime and it is very difficult to prove. We will get into reasons that is, in a couple of slides.

Who are the traffickers? Men and women of all ages. It could be caregivers, family members, intimate partners, employers, teachers and coaches, religious leaders, pimps and gangs, strangers, basically a trafficker could be anyone, anywhere, any time.

Who do traffickers target? Runways, homeless youth, people with disabilities, survivors of abuse and domestic violence, LGBTQIA plus individuals, impoverished and in debted people, desperate for education, jobs or better opportunities, undocumented foreign nationals, displaced persons from civil unrest, basically anyone can be a victim of trafficking.

>> Jody Haskin: I would also add Ericka, survivors of human trafficking can be anybody, but what the key is the trafficker will find an element and exploit them, so more communities are targeted more than others, because traffickers can find ways to exploit them and they will do it for their own profit or for their own benefit.

>> Ericka Reil: That is a really good point, thank you. I know in my state, traffickers are a lot of caregivers, because it is so expensive in Vermont, so that is one of the main elements is. People think it is drug, it is paying bills. Where do traffickers recruit? Local convenience stores, schools, parents sometimes, playgrounds, bus stops, work, social media, peers, malls, home, basically anywhere you can find people is where traffickers recruit.

The grooming process, a person is targeted, people gain trust, information, fill a need, any kind of need, maybe it is belonging, love, buying gifts, whatever, they isolate the victim and abuse begins and then control.

Jody? Hello? Hello?

>> Sara Bovat: Jody, we can't hear you yet. Sorry for all of the technological issues, you would think by January 2021, we would be so used to Zoom by now.

>> Ericka Reil: OK, so -- people are trafficked in several industries, architecture, syndicates, motel, motel, housekeeping, nail salon, criminal drug industry. Sex trafficking and hotels, online websites, strip clubs, streets, homes, truck stops, massage parlors, and even in homes.

The five reported methods -- hello?

>> Jody Haskin: Carry on.

>> Ericka Reil: The top five reported methods of force, fraud, and coercion in sex trafficking is induce, exploit abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, intimidation and emotional and intimacy abuse and labor trafficking is withhold pay, excessive working hours, threat to report immigration, verbal abuse and withhold or deny needs.

So why don't people leave? It is the same with any abusive relationship. Frequent, if not constant accompaniment, language and social barriers, lack of alternative options. One thing with people with disabilities is that is mostly caregiver abuse or caregiver trafficking or family abuse and people may not know their options. Many times people with disabilities, they don't know they are being trafficked. Use or threat of violence, fear of retaliation, death, arrest, harm to selves or loved ones or addiction. Traumatic bonding to the trafficker, sometimes this is normal. It is all they know. Traffickers train themselves to lie and false stories and survivors are trained to distrust authority. Traffickers may obtain a hold over the victim. Survivors are labeled as criminals and there is a lot of shame and self-blame for victims.

The intersection of disability and human trafficking, Jody, do you want to take over?

>> Jody Haskin: Sure, I would like to add why people don't leave to expand on the traumatic bonding to the trafficker, it may not only be traumatic bonding, but the person may have an initial bond to the person, such as a family member or they may not have any other options to leave. They may not have a safe place to go that they identified, or they are isolated or in a situation where they are geographically isolated, so there aren't a lot of places to turn. In some cases, this might be the safest situation that they can find for them at that time and what that means is that maybe an alternative would be living on the street or facing homelessness.

So, when we look at the intersection of disability and human trafficking there will be some unique circumstances and there are red flags that we have noticed antidotally when we talk to organizations who work with people with disabilities at the intersection of human trafficking. This quote here says people with disabilities are especially vulnerable to human trafficking and this comes from the tip report, the trafficking in persons report from 2016. This is a report that is put out every year by the State Department and this report identifies groups that are more likely to be targeted for trafficking that we need to focus on in our work. Ericka?

>> Ericka Reil: So just to, probably everybody knows, this but just a reminder that disability is diverse there is physical disability, physical, mobility, sensory, developmental, neurodivergent, chronic health, emotional and mental health, I'm probably preaching to the choir, but when we're talking disability, we're talking the whole gamut.

So, the C.D.C. reports in 2018 there are 22.5%, 61 million Americans or one in four adults in the U.S. who live with disabilities, this does not include individuals who are institutionalized.

So people with disabilities are reliant on assistance from others, which increases the vulnerability to abuse, so what we know is abuse for people with disabilities are often and more apparent than people with disabilities are abused by people they know than people without disabilities, there is a higher chance of that happening. So, that leads us to our other poll question. What do you know about human trafficking? A trafficker -- true or false, a trafficker may seek out a person with a disability to gain accesses to their benefits. Oops, I did something wrong. We are riddled. I gave you the answer. OK, so we are going to end the poll question real quick. So, it is actually true. A trafficker may also be a payee for the person, as well as their trafficker. It is as true that a caregiver may also become a payee and a caregiver and getting caregiver pay, as well as getting their -- as being their person's trafficker.

It is not uncommon for a caregiver, a spouse, a family member, whether it be mother or father, uncle, sister, brother to become a trafficker for somebody with a disability. Some of the reasons that people with disabilities are targeted for trafficking that we know, money. People with disabilities are still seen as burdens even in 2021 there is a lack of resources. I can tell you in my state of Vermont, we don't have a lot of resources. People don't know where to get resources. People are isolated. Lack of options for both families and persons with disabilities, people with disabilities are sometimes groomed at early ages and people tend to look the other way when it comes to abuse of people with disabilities. It's really not that uncommon for somebody with a disability to be abused and for people to look the other way thinking that just happens or you know to explain bruises when it comes to people with disabilities, whether it be on their body or on their person and just saying, oh, they are really clumsy and doctors saying, yeah, that is true. It is not uncommon.

A lot of recruitment sites for folks with disabilities are group homes, mental health facilities, Social Security and benefits office, online, substance abuse disorder programs, homeless shelters and youth programs. Jody, do you want to take this slide?

>> Jody Haskin: Sure, we know that after traffickers' target victims and they recruit them, they also need to control people in order to keep them in a trafficking situation. So, in order to do this, they have various strategies to make sure that the victim will stay in the trafficking situation, some of them may be to lead the victims to believe or to think no one will believe them if they told, to convince them they are fine and they don't need any extra care or support. They might make them feel like they are not credible based on biases that society may have. They will offer to provide better care, support, or even love. They may also pose as group homes that are providing legitimate services but are actually exploiting the people that they should be serving. They can isolate them for those who can identify their situation -- from those who can identify their situation as exploitive, abusive or trafficking. The next one.

In cases in which a trafficker knows the victim and is targeting a person to traffic, grooming and control are both involved to ensure compliance so the victim will not try to escape their

situation. Once the victim identifies the target, online, interactive video games, chat rooms, social media, we know people of all ages, especially now that we have been experiencing lockdown that people go into the Internet to look for friends and comfort so they feel less lonely and this is a place that traffickers can groom and control as well. Traffickers will learn more information about the needs and desires and gain necessary information, so they can determine what will be easiest to exploit with this person, and at this point, they are making promises of whatever the victim needs the most, maybe it is love or friendship or family, maybe that person is looking for independence or a sense of belonging or even a better life, so traffickers may make false promises, gifts or pay for things to in debt the victim to the trafficker, so blackmailing and gas lighting are common tactics used by traffickers to control people.

Victims may be told they are now criminals and perhaps this could be after maybe a trafficker asked for nude or partially nude photos and say they will keep it private, but they will use that as blackmail. They can tell the person that they could be arrested. They are often manipulated in believing that they got themselves into the situation and then the victim will feel self-blame. They will threaten on the hurt a family member to do as they are told. We can move to the next poll question.

>> Ericka Reil: So, people with disabilities often don't know their trafficker, true or false. OK, poll started. I keep showing the poll answer. OK. All right, so the answer is --

>> Jody Haskin: The answer is false. Almost everybody got that right, the person who put true is probably me by accident. I'm very glad that everyone has got that one right, because I think this is one thing that we have been driving home throughout this presentation is it is something that you didn't know prior to this presentation. We can close that one out.

>> Ericka Reil: This hit home when I read in the first time, I wanted a person to care about me and to be loved. The national data on abuse of victims and disabilities and individuals with multiple disabilities often victims of crime, are often more victims of crime than any other one disability -- often those with one disability or no disability at all. Individuals with disabilities are two and a half times more likely than to be victims of a crime than those who are not disabled and 40% of those know their offender.

12.7% of victims against people with disabilities are violent crimes, rape, assault, aggravated assault. 21% of individuals with disabilities who are victimized do not report the crime because they believe that the authorities will not believe them. Individuals with cognitive disabilities are more likely to be victims of crime because they are less than individuals with disabilities.

>> Jody Haskin: I can take this one as well. The human trafficking legal center provided this service and this is tiny little words that indicate the graphic here, but we did want to have this, so you can look at it closely later and I can go through it and what it says is the types of abuses in federal civil and criminal cases involving the trafficking of victims with disabilities and this is in the years 2000-2017 and the highlight here is that extreme physical violence beyond what we have seen until typical trafficking cases occurs in a case where somebody with a disability is a victim of a crime. You can see on the right, the highest level is 71% is physical violence. And

that is the most of what we see. If we start over on the left side, 50% is -- 57% is forced labor. The next is 50% is forced labor that is non-commercial sexual abuse and 57% is forced prostitution, the next is commercial sexual exploitation of children, which is sex trafficking of children under the age of 18. and that is 21% and theft of benefits is included at 50%.

>> Ericka Reil: So that brings us -- go ahead.

>> Jody Haskin: To the next poll question. This is a true or false question as well, people with disabilities are less likely to report about trafficking. True or false. OK. You can close that.

>> Ericka Reil: OK. And the answer is true. People with disabilities may not know how to report, understanding the reporting process or groomed to mistrust law enforcement. So, why people with disabilities, we will jump right in, why people with disabilities are not reporting. The process of reporting is not understood. There are a lot of steps in reporting to law enforcement. A lot of people I help don't understand the process, law enforcement whether it is police or lawyers or judges, there's a lot of jargon, there is a lot of paperwork. It is not understood. People do not know they can have an advocate with them to walk them through or advocates aren't really trained in how to walk somebody through the whole process of reporting. People are afraid of being accused of being called a frequent flyer. I don't know how many times I have heard that term. There is a fear of police. Police are scary. They have that big, batman utility belt. Police in my area are just scary looking.

There is over stimulations of process there is a lot going on. People get asked a lot of questions. can't remember the order of events, not only is someone talking about a traumatic event that happened to them, I know I can't remember sometimes all of the details of, they have a disability and there are questions and it is hard. Sometimes there is communication barriers, whether somebody has issues with communication or speech or the jargon issue, sometimes it is difficult and there is the big fear of losing independence. Maybe the person is afraid they are going to go into a nursing home, or they have to live with somebody they don't know or they have to live on a street or there is so many unknowns. Sometimes living with the abuse is just easier. And that is a really sad thing to say, living with abuse is just easier.

Indicators of human trafficking, some of the indicators of human trafficking are really kind of abuse is unnecessary or unusual security or accompaniment, yeah, lack of freedom. The person not allowed to come and go as they please, signs of assault, restraint or malnourishment, paid little, works long hours without breaks, sometimes you run into someone who used to go out a lot and then they don't that is a red flag or the person used to go out, was independent and suddenly someone has to be with them all of the time.

Another one is broken medical equipment, a service dog is uncared for, same representative pay for multiple people or unrelated adults, if there are frequent emergency room admissions, physical injuries left untreated, excessive prescription for scheduled drugs.

Questions you might want to ask, can you leave your job if you want to? Can you come and go

if you please? Are you hurting? Do you have access to your medication? Where do you sleep? Where do you eat? Do you know where your I.D. is or why is your mobility aid broken? When you see trafficking, it is not a short-term affliction, it affects the survivor's whole life, families and even entire communities, that is a quote by a trafficking survivor.

When does law enforcement get involved, Jody? Likely intersections with law enforcement are hotel and motel complaints, emergency rooms or reports from medical professionals, motor vehicle complaints, inside people's homes, domestic abuse or sexual assault cases, runaways, missing children, referrals from public, drug cases, overdoses and other 911 calls.

Some of the barriers to investigations, no case is the same. It requires a significant amount of flexibility and patience, some cases require months or years to investigate, there needs to be trust and rapport building and that can be challenging. You are working with somebody who is coming out of an abusive situation, there is relapse or recovery that can be unpredictable, victim's trauma history may be impacted, their ability to recall events and timelines. Survivor's impact will not be what you expect. Every person is different, every case is different. A person might, you know, laugh it off, another person may cry a lot, you don't know. You have to be really patient and sincere and take time to build that trust. Jody, would you like to take case studies?

>> Sara Bovat: I think we might have lost Jody, so I think it is OK to continue on right now.

>> Ericka Reil: OK, I will take case studies. We are going to talk about some case studies, this is where it gets really hard. In Danbury, Connecticut, there were four men with mental health diagnosis that were trafficked for sex. The men were groomed with promises of drugs and their trafficker became their payee. Their trafficker kept a running tab of their expenses, including drug and kept half of their "escort" money as a finder's fee.

So, they actually got 4.5-year prison sentence for this, which in my opinion, was not enough time.

Another case example, Jody is more familiar with this than I am, a mother trafficked her child in exchange for drugs. This is a really hard one. The mother ended up after a couple of years, got a couple of years in prison. Sorry, I don't know much about this case.

Caregiver sentenced to 30 years in federal prison, um, thankfully, they had to pay restitution for these cases in 2006. It was not the first time a caregiver was sentenced, but it was the longest time given to a caregiver for that many years, 30 years in federal prison.

A lot of times you don't hear about these cases, because they are flipped to the back page and the worst case that went to a whole community was, of course, the boys in the bunk house. For those who don't know this case, it started in 1974 and went until 2009. It started with boys -- I don't want to say boys, but men on a Turkey farm and they were given pennies a day and lived in squalor. This was a whole community that did not understand that these men were basically slaves. The whole community turned their back until they realized that these men were giving --

living in squalor, being given slave wages and finally in 2009, they were able to be set free. They had been working almost 40 years and they only had \$88 in their savings. But I was -- it was one of the things that affected a whole community.

Moving on. What can you do? Your role until the fight against human trafficking. You are doing it right now. You are sitting here listening. Choose to acknowledge that human trafficking is happening and people with disabilities are targeted. Learn about human trafficking via webinars, trainings, etc. Connect to anti-trafficking organizations and networks in your area. Offer to train on disability and other resources on human trafficking providers, look to include human trafficking screening tools into organization intake, include human trafficking awareness info in newsletters and join local coalitions and task forces. Hi.

>> Jody Haskin: I can talk about some organizations that agencies can partner with.

>> Ericka Reil: So, Jody, because I didn't know the case studies very well, they were yours, I kind of flubbed through them, do you want to go back to those real quick?

>> Jody Haskin: Sure. Let's start with the Danbury case.

>> Ericka Reil: I kind of cheated people out of those.

>> Jody Haskin: That is fine, and we do have time. I know we initially thought we would be able to get -- we wouldn't be able to get to all of the case studies. So, we will talk about the Danbury case, which is the case that you have up. In this case, the three traffickers targeted you know mention for youth with disabilities and substance abuse rehabilitation programs. In this case, the traffickers befriended the youth and learned they felt lonely, disconnected and were struggling with addiction to drugs. When the traffickers discovered this element, they began to offer sense of belonging, by communicating often, being friendly towards the youth and they supplied the young men with drugs.

The young men were reminded if they talked to anyone else, it would be found out they were doing drugs illegally and they could get kicked out of their program. They were groomed with promises of drugs and their traffickers became payees and what happened when the youth built up enough debt because of the drugs that the traffickers gave to them, so the traffickers gave them these drugs and said they don't have to pay right away, but they were racking up debt. They forced the young men to perform sex acts on strangers and the traffickers kept the money. Soon they began to hold the drugs they were providing to the young men and this is another form of control. So, while the youth were experiencing withdrawal, the traffickers would then withhold drugs from the youth until they agreed to perform commercial sex acts. They continued this cycle of withholding the drugs, having them perform commercial sex acts to get the drugs, including using their addiction to continue this commercial sexual exploitation.

So, we can go to the next example and this is interfamilial trafficking and we do show the pictures of the traffickers, because we want you to understand and reimagine what the typical trafficker looks like. I think many times in our minds, when we hear human trafficking, we think

to what the media exposes us to and not to what is actually happening. This is a woman who trafficked her daughter. She was forcing her 14-year-old daughter who will live with mental and physical disabilities to provide sex acts to men in exchange for cocaine. This is a case that is called interfamilial trafficking because the trafficker is a family member. This is quite common. Outside of family, caregivers can use their role of authority, trusted relationship to break down barriers with people as they bathe, as they dress, and as they assist them with other hygiene needs, so in this case, the trafficker who is the mother provided all care for her daughter, so targeted her for trafficking. Young people who depend on a parental caregiver may be isolated from others much more easily as they already live with their trafficker.

Also happen to be in control with their documents, with their income, with their mobility and more, as you can imagine. So, all of this, in addition to any bonds and trauma bonds that are formed, it makes it more difficult to seek help or for professionals to know any red flags of abuse. This case highlights that the trafficker only needs to receive something of value to meet the definition of trafficking, so in this case, receiving drugs as a form of payment will still be considered trafficking even without money exchanging hands.

OK, the next one was about victims living inside residential care homes, so this one included forced labor that included forced sexual servitude. So, the Kaufmans ran a residential treatment center for people dealing with mental illness, so they stole Social Security benefits and they charged Medicare for services that didn't exist. Part of their treatment that did not exist, the Kaufmans would force patients to perform nude manual labor and to record videos of sex acts. So even way back in the 80'S, the State Department of social rehabilitation services started to receive reports that the Kaufmans were abusing their patients and in 1999, police started to receive reports of adults who were nude and working in a field. There were still no charges filed at that time, but there was a report to the state agencies and in 2001 there were over 30 videotapes that depicted sexual abuse and this was seized by the departments of human trafficking and health services, but still no action taken.

Finally, in 2004, a female alleges abuse and there was an investigation by the state's AG and the disability rights center and that finally led to a court order that suspended the guardianship of that person. So, there was restitution for the victims, finally and they did see jail time.

>> Ericka Reil: You can see it holds true about how long it takes for a case to go through. Thank you, Jody for filling us in on those cases. So now, we're here at your role in the fight against human trafficking. Do you want to add in on those?

>> Jody Haskin: Oh, we can go to the organizations to partner with.

>> Ericka Reil: Yep.

>> Jody Haskin: Yeah, so first and foremost the National Human Trafficking and Disabilities Working Group, this is the working group that Ericka and I are part of and is sponsoring this webinar series. It is self-advocates, survivors, who have come across the country to work on this intersection. We hope to start connecting with others in our various areas across the

country and providing more comprehensive resources that we can reach out to among the group members. Other agencies that you should look to, include domestic violence services in your areas, the police departments are necessary, LGBTQ plus organizations, PRIDE centers, organizations that work with victims of sexual assault, child advocacy centers and other collaborations, including human trafficking task forces in your city, region, or your state.

And along with that, we have some resources and information about how you can become more involved in already existing collaborations across the country. The first that we want to mention as a resource is the national human trafficking Resource Center. This is what houses the hotline where we showed you some of the statistics. The Resource Center is a place where you can, not only get resources from on human trafficking, but also to call if you have a tip or a question about a potential trafficking situation, and if you or someone you know might be potentially trafficked or in a situation where someone may be targeting you for trafficking, you can call this phone number. It is not connected with law enforcement and it is confidential. You don't have to say who you are when you call this number. Some other resources and groups you will be part of are the HEAL Network that are connected with those health services. Freedom Network U.S.A. is national and provides training, technical assistance and housing for survivors of trafficking. National Human Trafficking and Disabilities Working Group and Center for Independent Living, which Ericka is part of.

>> Ericka Reil: So Center for Independent Living for disability advocates and National Disability Rights Networks.

>> Jody Haskin: For P&A's on the call, if you have questions about some of your agent city work, the NDRN, the National Disability Rights Network will answer specific questions that have to do with your P&A. We can go to the next slide.

>> Ericka Reil: I am chair of our PAIMI for the disability rights network, so putting it out there. So in the end, -- go ahead.

>> Jody Haskin: Sorry, I was going to mention Virginia asked about the group or one of the case studies were they in Kansas and yes, it was. OK, so the disability provider roles, this is where you all come in. There will be some basics that I think you can determine based on your own policy within your agencies and as you all know and what we try to underscore is safety is the first priority. We know that people who are being exploited are in a very trauma situation. We have to be trauma informed when working and building rapport with people who may be trafficked. We want to make sure their safety is a first priority, that your safety is a priority and those who you are working with is as a priority as well. It is important that the person you are working with understands what mandating reporting is and it is very clear there is plenty of time to sit and really provide a space for people to understand what mandating reporting is and what it means if you had to report. It is important to prepare now, so it is a good idea to make sure there are interpreters ready before you need them, so you are not trying to scramble when somebody is in an extreme situation. It is important to be able to provide choice and autonomy for individuals who are looking for some kind of assistance. We always want to make sure it is person centered. They are making choices and you are there to support them in their choices,

so they can remain safe. Again, with trauma-informed language, really creating that space, really slowing things down, making the person feel like they are in a place where they feel like they are out of harm's way for that moment, if they are.

If you have any questions about resources or even just if you remember this webinar a year from now and kind of get a gut feeling that someone you are working with might have some of the red flags, there might be something going on even in addition of an exploitive situation or something is just not right, you can always contact the national human trafficking hotline for guidance and they are always available via text, e-mail and the hotline is open 24/7. You are always welcome to go there will, not just for more resources, but if you have any questions. go ahead.

>> Ericka Reil: We are at our last slide, which is our contact information.

>> Jody Haskin: If anybody has any questions, this is where you can type in the messages.

>> Ericka Reil: I'm going to stop sharing my screen now.

>> Jody Haskin: Or do you want to keep that up, so people have the information?

>> Ericka Reil: I'm going to type it in the -- there you go.

>> Sara Bovat: In the meantime, there have been some questions. Thank you for discussing barriers to reporting. Actually, apologies. That was just an observation. Thank you for that. If anyone who called in and wants to voice their question, feel free to un-mute yourself and do so now. I think for the most part, most of the comments in the chat have just been really great, vibrant dialogue. I don't see any particular questions so far. If people do have questions, use the space now to jump in.

>> Jody Haskin: I will say that we can use this time, Sara to let everyone know about the upcoming webinar happening at the end of the month, so if anyone has not registered for that, you are welcome to do so. That one is very specific, more to trauma and trafficking of individuals with disabilities and disability justice as it pertains to survivors of trafficking.

>> Sara Bovat: Great.

>> Ericka Reil: I apologize for all of the technical issues. It is not a training unless there are technical issues.

>> Sara Bovat: Lindsey did mention that the Georgia statute to the 20 years and can be sentenced to abuse charges while the perp traders please to the lower offense, the charge has a potential for much heavier sentences. Either Ericka or Jody want to comment on that?

>> Jody Haskin: That is fantastic and any time there can be -- if it is going to be a state charge that it is important that is used and again, state laws are different throughout the country, so it

is good that there is more focus on it now and we are starting to see there is more focus on human trafficking just because it is such a hidden crime and even especially with certain communities and this is why we are working especially with individuals within the disability community, because we know that this is something that hasn't been a lot of focus on even though antidotally, we know it is happening and we know we can't increase penalties and increase comprehensive services for individuals who may be trafficked, unless we have more awareness about it and potentially more funding from our Federal Government and state governments as well.

>> Sara Bovat: Thank you. We have a question from Melissa that just came until for Ericka. She works with CIL, Center for Independent Living here in Michigan, how do you go about screening for trafficking with your consumers? Can you give us some specifics?

>> Ericka Reil: that is a really great question. What we found is that our advocates well, we don't screen for trafficking. Our advocates, well, before COVID, would go into and do a home visit and say hey, I came across red flags. Maybe you should go visit, I go visit and we talk, and I talk to a consumer and we would finally figure out there is stuff going on. Through, basically, just being a sleuth and figuring out there is more than meets the eye, so to speak, but then I got the rep for being the person to go to for trafficking cases, so basically word of mouth started happening and now that COVID is around, a lot of case managers or social services agencies know me as being the person to go to for trafficking cases when it comes to our homeless populations. So, that's basically how we do it. It is not something that is set in stone, does that make sense?

>> Jody Haskin: There are some screening tools that are specific for adults and screening tools that are specific for youth as well. We keep those as resources, both on the IOFA page and the National, Human trafficking site. Right now, there are unique screening tools that are being developed, but in the meantime, we know organizations have been adapting the existing screening tools to use with clients, within their organizations and the time to use them are usually upon intake and throughout the case life of the individual you are working with depending on if there is some kind of change in the case, if there is some reason to reassess and it is not always asking the individual direct questions. Usually, we try to stay away from that, but ask or make direct observations of the red flags and to do that, you have to be able to build rapport with the person as well.

>> Ericka Reil: Right, like our police officers. I'm on our human trafficking task force and law enforcement and the human trafficking case managers have their screening tools that they ask. They ask everybody if they have a disability across the board and if they have a disability, they get a referral to me.

>> Student: And then we have another question from Rebecca, can you touch on COVID and how that impacted service delivery and increased vulnerability during this time of lockdown. I'm sure we can have a whole presentation on that.

>> Ericka Reil: Yes, we can have a whole -- one thing I can antidotally say with COVID,

especially with the homeless population, we had an increase just for, I'm going to be crude and say survival sex, because of the orders of stay at home or live in motels. A lot of our folks with drug dependency or have a mental health condition are just trying to get their basic needs met and it has become an increase across the board. Getting service delivery is a little bit harder, because as everybody knows, everybody is working from home. As you can see my plants behind me, it is harder to get people on the phone as it was once before. So, yeah, it's hard, so that is where I'm finding my job is a little more stressed.

>> Sara Bovat: Jody, do you have anything to add?

>> Jody Haskin: I was going to add that sometimes it might be difficult to find some of the people that organizations had been working for previously, so getting care to them might be more difficult, especially if they don't have constant access to the Internet or to the phone to be able to contact them and to provide services and resources for them, transportation, food, so even just getting until contact with them makes them even more targeted for exploitation.

>> Ericka Reil: That is an excellent point. thank you, Jody.

>> Sara Bovat: I think that is all of the questions we had. Thank you so much to everyone for joining and for your patience as we navigated the technical difficulties and I hope this was full experience for everyone. Jody and a, do you have last notes for the group?

>> Ericka Reil: Thank you for taking your Friday afternoon with us and contact us any time you have any questions.

>> Jody Haskin: Yes, I would wholeheartedly agree with that as well. Also, just as a side note, the National Human Trafficking and Disabilities Working Group often puts out surveys that helps us to understand how people are serving survivors of traffickers and may have a disability and we are looking at how agencies are doing that and where the gaps are that need to be supported and addressed. If you would like to be a part of the future of the surveys, it would help always to create more and more robust services and information about how to move forward in this intersection, so thank you for your future cooperation if you are interested.

>> Sara Bovat: All right, thank you, everyone and have a great day.

>> Jody Haskin: Thanks, everyone.

>> Ericka Reil: Thanks.

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