

20210210 NDRN Emergency Preparedness for Rep Payees - ST to Zoom

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>> SPEAKER: [Introductions]

[Reading] Driven to action she studied community development in South Africa, peace and post-conflict reconciliation in Uganda and [fast speaking] -- social action and communications. She earned her bachelor's in journalism with a minor in peace studies and marketing.

Martin began his fire service involvement in in the mid-he has spoken on fire safety codes and standards in the disability community in numerous groups on the national level including the automatic fire alarm - state fire marshals and the national electrical equipment manufacturers association. I'll turn it over to justice.

Thank you all for joining us. I am joined by the -- [indiscernible] -- mark larceny son. I want to give you a chance to say hello so people don't have to wait half-hour to hear your voice. [Laughter.]

You have to come off mute to do that. Mark, do you want to say hello.

>> MARK: Thank you, very much for giving us some of your time. Our goal here today is to make sure when this is done that you sit back and say: That was time well spent. And so we hope to give you lots of good information and answer all the questions we can. Thank you for your time.

>> SPEAKER: Thank you Mark. Appreciate it. I want to get going with a couple of additional, um, notes here for you guys before we get into our slides. We have a couple of different accommodation features. We have Realtime Captions that are provided in case they need it. Please be aware that if you have any accommodation needs do let us know. Send her a message in the chat and we'll try to accommodate you best we can.

Also for your accessibility needs we have asked Eli -- phenomenal producer for that session to progress the slides. So you'll hear Mark and I suggest slide, or next slide. That's to make sure the screen feature is not popping back and forth diminishing the connection y'all have because some of you are in rural areas and -- we want to make sure everybody has best experience a is possible. We've asked that Elijah move the slides throughout today's presentation.

For me personally, I am blind and I use a screen reader and give me grace today because I will be listening and reading simultaneously. You'll hear me pause, stop, and go back to make sure that what

I'm saying, um, is in direct alignment with what I'm listening to them I will ask Mark to confirm what he is seeing on the screen to make sure that when I'm saying is in sync what you're saying. I don't want to be on the wrong slide. [Laughter.] You may hear me do that as well.

In terms of general flow, I will be going over a couple of things as it relates to individuals with disabilities representative payee program. Mainly talking about this in relation to things like financial exploitation, abuse, neglect, warnings, risk and problems to pay attention to advocacy, right?

We'll talk about what these things mean, define them a little bit. Then talk about what they look like through a disaster specific lens and what are some of the things who work on these issues -- as members of representative payee teams -- [indiscernible] -- advocacy or external advocates something you want to be mindful of. Beneficiaries, we have language in this slide deck [fast speaking] around that. So if you want to copy and paste that and provide that, it is available to you.

And then we want to toss over to Mark and he will rollout three checklists today. Today is the big rollout extravaganza. For job aids for anyone who does representative payee work at your protection agency or monetary investigations work or any other folks who may be doing site visits things likely to be may be helpful or partners we have on the line.

Also publically available via the website and the internal platform task site. We'll tell you where to go as we go.

It's going to be sectioned off that way. I'll go first, then to have Mark. Then we're going to spend the whole third half all devoted to you. Please be ready to engage talk, because that whole 30 minutes will be devoted to that. Hope that you guys are ready to have a good time and engage.

All right, let me ground us holistic. We want to acknowledge why we are here and this is well express this commitment to those that are most directly and these will be beneficiaries and individuals with disabilities, who have a representative payee, who have alternative means of gaining financial support and security, right? We want to center these people in our conversations today. Center these have you seen. I hope you all will examine where you enter: Attorney, advocate, are you a provider? Are you a, um, individual with a disability yourself who, um, also has a representative payee? Who are you in today's conversation? We want to be mindful of what we want to do. If you're an attorney, how do you want to do this? Advocates, how can we use the tools, conversations today to strengthen the work? This is not a laid-back leisure listen only mode. We want to be activated about how we can do the work we do better than we've already been doing it.

You have been doing well thus far, but we want to keep going moving forward.

This presentation will mention things such as substance abuse, physical abuse and human trafficking. Sexual abuse. We won't go any details, but there are references throughout the presentation [overlapping speakers]

>> MARK: Would you cut out the grounding slide please.

>> MS. JUSTICEUSTINE: Thank you. [Laughter.] I'm all the way down towards the bottom in terms of this grounding slide, but now you guys will get to see exactly what I've been saying. I won't go all the way back here. It's just exactly what I've said for the last minute or so.

"Create collective access" that's disability justice principal. We encourage folks to do this with every presentation I do. If you have an answer to the question don't hesitate to answer it keeping in mind what she mentioned about suitability and only certain people on the line suitable to answer specific questions around representative payee issues especially if it involves personal identifiable information. If it is more general, broad or perhaps well versed on abuse and neglect, financial exploitation or a story to share, experience you think it relevant, don't hesitate to provide collective access for one another. A resource, link, a book recommendation.

Lastly, we will say in this presentation is not set in stone. All content is evolving. This may be drastic R drastically different than a month or two. The things you say will be implied and integrated how moving forward.

I think I have grounded us enough. Eli, slide.

Also, before we started you were jammed a little bit -- if folks are curious that song is by believe CID and -- [indiscernible] -- we believe we can do something here that will improve the lives of people across the country. Figure out how to do that.

All right, start off acknowledging definitions. I wanted to equalize the audience a little bit understanding these definitions.

Financial exploitation: Financial security of individuals who are beneficiaries, right? People who have a representative payee. What this means in terms of a disaster and emergency context. We want to explore what is financial exploitation? When somebody does not have equitable access to their funds [fast speaking] when I'm on a role I'm just going.

Not a problem. I will slow my computer down a little bit. I'm moving at the same speed she is and that's not helpful.

So the CDC describes financial exploitation as the illegal unauthorized or improper use of an older individual's resources by a caregiver or other person in a trusting relationship for the benefit for someone other than the older individual.

Understand that the CDC really understands financial exploitation through age, right? Specifically looking at older adults. That's how they understand financial exploitation. When you think about DOJ, they're more expansive, far more detailed as we can expect with the DOJ.

Let me read that for folks on the line. DOJ: Financial exploitation. "Means the use of an eligible adult's resources by another to the disadvantage of that adult or the profit or advantage of a person other than the adult."

They define an eligible adult. That can mean an adult with a disability, 18-59, or a person age 16 or older who resides in a domestic living situation, and is or alleged to be abused, neglected or financially exploited by another individual or who neglects himself or herself. Of course, they go a little bit more deep. Who an eligible adult includes. Could be an adult who resides in any facilities that are excluded from the definition after domestic living situation, if either the alleged abuse or neglect occurs outside the facility and not under facility supervision and the alleged abuser as a family member, caregiver or another person who has a continuing relationship with the adult, or [overlapping speakers]

>> MARK: Slide four Eli.

>> MS. JUSTICE: Please stop me if I'm going and not moved on to the right slide.

I'm reading this and down towards the end at this point.

I'll speak a little bit loud to make sure everyone can hear what I'm saying progressing through.

Um, okay.

These are basically the basic ways that CDC and the DOJ have described what it means to have financial exploitation taking place. The CDC emphasis here is that the CDC describes this by age. Look at this in terms of older adults or who are the primary folks that might be financial exploited. The DOJ's definition is expansive and look at it in terms of eligible adult and define who that is.

Age, domestic living situations, people both inside and outside a facility settings. People who can potentially be financial exploited by family members, caregivers, staff members who may be -- or outside of those facility settings.

What does this mean? [Overlapping speakers.] I'm going to make sure everybody is muted because we have some background music [background noises]

If you can go ahead and mute your lines or Elijah if you can make sure everyone is muted outside of myself right now. I'm the only one presenting.

Militia that we get everybody muted. I want to make sure everybody has access.

The question becomes: What is financial exploitation in relation to disasters?

Warning signs:

All right, wonderful. What does financial exploitation mean in a disaster specific context? For example, the DOJ has several warning signs in terms of what financial exploitation can look like. I applied that in a disaster context, why? Because sometimes people think that financial exploitation or abuse or neglect somehow they disappear or not as relevant during disaster. Sometimes people get really, heart strings start to get plugged with videos of folks come together, donating and building back together, strong, but sometimes they don't see or not as exposed to some of the other things happening behind the scenes or both the surface.

We want to make sure that people understand what financial exploitation could look like basic awareness. Representative payee staff member -- aware of the different ways this shows up. If you are someone supporting someone who is a beneficiary and mindful how these show up.

This could be the unauthorized withdrawal of awarded disaster funds using someone's banking information, ATM card. It could be advance will or other financial documents following a disaster, unexplained disappearance or withholding of property or valuable possessions. I'll keep these things from you and not explain why I'm doing that in terms of valuable possessions and even the will that someone has or has in place.

It could be standard care provided or bills left unpaid despite the availability of adequate financial support during the -- the finances are there to make sure bills are paid and people have access to

medications. But for some reason -- beneficiary, right? It could be the discovery of an individual's significant being forged for financial transactions for the title of their possessions, right? Gaining a access to their car, possessions or home, right? Forging their signatures to make sure they have access to those things after a disaster.

This is important. During a disaster you have to prove documentation. This is how a lot of these things can happen folks. If you need to show proof of residency or title to the car to fix it if it was damaged. If you need to show proof of ownership for any property or valuable possessions in order to explain that to merchant providers. All those things may be floating around and people may try to use that as an opportunity to take advantage and exploit someone in order to gain access to those possessions, right.

This could be the sudden appearance of previously uninvolved relatives claiming rights to somebody's property or possessions after a disaster. All of a sudden, a disaster happens and uncle Fred comes in -- no offense -- I have the right to this. Now, grandmother is in a nursing home. Now, they're saying they have the rights to all of her possessions and investigator house. The house should not be deeded to them, right? So let's leave grandmother where she is and now, take over this property. It's a heavy and harsh example, but it is something quite within the realm of possibility, right?

We can look at this in terms of unexplained transfer of assets to a family member or outside the family.

Without the knowledge or permission or acknowledgment of the individual with a disability, but changing money around, switching money around access to people's mail. This is important. Sometimes you don't have direct access to your mail. Sometimes it can still be going to the damaged property.

Representative payee who doesn't have the best intentions, then has access to your mail or someone else has access and now making decisions on your behalf that you have no knowledge of. Financial exploitation can happen in that regard as well.

It could be the provision of services that are not necessary, especially when critical needs were made unmet after an emergency this. Could be -- [indiscernible] -- get this wonderful new mahogany table. Spend the beneficiary's money on and still without -- making sure those critical needs are met in ways that are not pressing when a disaster happens there's critical things that need to happen. Ignoring those needs for something them find appealing or satisfactory is not helpful in this circulation.

Lastly just saying official exploited. There's no warning sign somebody is telling you I'm being financial exploited. Sometimes it's not that language. It could be someone using -- my money is misused or showing up at a shelter saying my auntie has access to my Social Security check, but she told me to come here and I had to go here to get assistance and support and she won't give me access to my money. That's a real-world example.

These are the conversations we want to think about as we have conversations financial exploitation.

Abuse & neglect:

I want y'all to be with me. I'll give a basic definition and then put it in context. "Abuse and neglect."

These are used widely and I'll read it out loud for access. "Abuse can mean any act or failure to act...[reading]...omissions."

There are still efforts on state's side and state specific contexts pushing these reliability waivers are shields in place to protect nursing homes and other residential facilities from any reliability related to abuse and neglect of individuals with disabilities, related to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Let's look at this deeper.

Now, y'all should be seeing "Abuse & Neglect in a disaster context."

This could be the failure to prepare to take recommended or mandatory precautions. If folks are saying please, let's get things boarded up, folks out, mandatory vaccinations and a provider or nursing home saying no, we're not going to the it. We know best. This storm never hits us. It's fine. We're not taking advantage or take these orders.

Completely refusing to prepare in any way.

Putting the resident or the individuals in a significant high risk of injury or death. This could be refusal to respond to evacuation orders ignoring critical needs or emerging issues during a pandemic or crisis related to health and safety.

Telling everybody to use PPE and -- says that's not real or what helps us. No we're not going to use PPE or San San Advertise things. That's not happening for any number of reasons puts people in significant risk or death especially in the middle after public health crisis.

Preparing [fast speaking] Mark will talk about this later -- failing to make sure that basic fire codes and hazards will not be a problem on a dated basis.

What does that look like in a disaster context? Basically, having people live in a place that is a complete fire hazard ignoring the safety risk and implications here there's puts people at risks. It could be the denial of food, water, medication, medical equipment. We can think about this in terms of labor, sex trafficking after disasters due to displacement, lack of housing, loss of support systems. NDRN does a lot of work with the national trafficking and disabilities work group. We did a session on trauma-informed care and disability justice during disasters relation to human trafficking. If anybody is interested in this we'll share the links to those sessions.

If it's also -- that was human trafficking 101 session in case someone is curious what that means. Disasters can be chaotic and things can fall through the gaps and disconnected from the support systems and displaced and often look for housing in ways and with others who they may not traditionally gravitate to. All those could be direct linkages to individuals who may be perpetrators of trafficking, right? We want to be clear about what that looks like.

It could be forcing someone to live in a state of the personal crisis, deprivation or harm which makes it difficult to prepare for an on set crisis. Keeping people in a state of deprivation, daily -- no access to food. Every day you're figuring out how to eat. Every day you're figuring out how to get back and forth to work or to a program that you're involved in that provides you with mental health support so that you can have the support and security you need in terms of mental health. But keeping you in a state where you don't have some of those basic daily supports, keeping you having to deal -- hands full with those things makes it so much more difficult to be ready and capable of dealing with something that happens suddenly, right? Every day you've been so worn down dealing with the basic needs of survival. When a storm comes -- all of a sudden you have an hour or two to prepare it puts you at a significant

disadvantage. If you don't have access to finances, it can make it so difficult to make the swift decisions need to do save your life and perhaps others around you.

"Related risks."

We just want to look at some of the risks individuals with disabilities and people who -- what are some of the risks with folks who don't have access to finances and what happens during a disaster? Loss of medications, access to medical treatment, reference to support systems. Higher risk of disaster scams. Trying to take advantage of individuals irrespective of age or disability. When people don't have access to their funding and supports they immediate, sometimes they become reliant or connected to someone who may have these sort of nefarious intentions, right? So we also want to think about this in terms of domestic violence and literally present on this every time I talk about disaster lack of support systems, the amount of stress, lack of employment tend to rise sometimes because their jobs are flooded or layoffs. So we notice this as well during Coronavirus. Especially in the early months. Abuse and neglect. Preventible death and injury. When they don't have access. Displacement and disappearances. People disappearing momentarily, right? If we're talking about this literal -- even participate in the registration process at a shelter, right? So if that's the main mechanism for tracking people figuring out where people are. Put your name in this databases, sit down, check in, we'll direct people here, post these lists online so families can find each other. If no one is available to help you with that, perhaps you're not eligible or able to make sure that you are a part of that process, that your name is circulating to be reconnected to those who want to help you.

Is that happening? Has, um, group homes with individuals moved because that group home has been damaged and now no one knows where they are? We think at that them be in this county, but not sure. Get back to you at some point. That's problem, right?

We want to figure out where people are so that we can make sure folks don't end up in situations causing them additional injury and danger, perhaps death, after a disaster has already happened.

Important to think about. We can think about this in terms of involuntary institutionalize. It could be a risk when shelters close down and people don't have the money to stay in hotels and motels for extended periods of time.

I often say this and -- almost all advocates who work in this area will tell you that the people who you will commonly see in a shelter at the end before it closes -- are people with disabilities. Then it becomes this mad dash to get people placed somewhere out of cost effectiveness because costing money to keep it open.

Sometimes options are placed in a nursing home or facility because that's the easiest option now. Sure they'll get on out at some point. Folks don't realize [fast speaking] them getting out. Them getting out can be much more difficult daunting process protracted process where people may go in and never have a pathway for getting out.

We think about this when we talk about folks advocating for home and community base supports. We that you be in terms of recovery process because if the finances are wrapped up into the nursing home setting and you don't have access to your money then -- no, you can't afford a new home, bed, items that you need in order to regain your status of community living.

Look at that a little bit. Human trafficking and considers radiation. This also becomes a risk when people do not have access to money. Poor crimes or poverty related crimes, crimes related to food, transportation, the bus, or public transportation or train. So crimes related to those things. People may end up participating in those activities and thus becoming far more entwined in the criminal legal system because they don't have access to their funding, perhaps someone has their money and has not been providing them with the support they need to move forward.

In terms of the abuse, the prison pipeline. We talked about human trafficking before, abuse, neglect, human trafficking.

And what this also means that the abuse to prison pipeline is created. Specifically, relates to survivors of abuse committing crimes or acts what is deemed as crimes -- in response to the abuse they're experiencing, right? As the only pathway out. This could look like self-defense from someone committing caregiver violence or domestic violence to you.

You could be in prison prostitution -- higher rate in relation to the actual perpetrators and the buyers of sex in a trafficking situation.

[Standby for Realtime Captions.]

We want you to have a well rounded range with other advocates in the work you do.

"Reducing risk."

I'll go through this quickly. "Ask that your payee...[reading]...directly."

I have talked to nursing home staff that will go in and train them on fire safety or train them on emergency management and ask them: How often do you actually speak to the residents with disabilities Ms. He has a rarity I get affirmation saying yes, I do. Rarely they speak to the residents it's a problem. Mark will tell you a lot of fires tend to happen in the evening. When are these facilities under staffed in in the evenings.

Having as many people on deck available to get out there and save their own lives and others around them -- if warranted...[reading]...needs."

"Contact Social Security if the payee is unresponsive...[reading]...you want to reach out for domestic violence and peer support groups. Go to law enforcement. That's not the optimal option for everyone. Not everyone feels comfortable going to law enforcement. That's a wonderful option for people who are, but for individuals who are not, I want to provide an alternative path, which is connecting to those who are well versed on -- [indiscernible] -- survivor methods whatever that looks like and dammed zoo suitable and safe for survivors. That's for survivors to determine.

"For payees."

We want to offer assistance...[reading]...expenses."

Directly in response to some of those risks we talked about before.

I thought you about the -- [indiscernible] -- I want to get folks to think about ways to prevent financial harm during disasters. Please be aware. I don't care if you are a payee, beneficiary or representative, advocate, attorney -- be mindful of all of the ways that people are financial exploited or harmed during

disasters. This could be housing. Inspectors representing FEMA somebody asking for the nine digit FEMA Social Security Number, banking information -- no FEMA expert will ask for that. That's a way to identify a scam.

"Fake offers of local or federal aid."

[Reading] you're going to have to pay for an interpreter or Realtime Captioner or if you are blind an interpreter. It's a scam.

We hear about this all advertisement. Fraudulent building, contractor's. Be aware. Use licensed or verified contractors. Don't pay more than half of the cost of repairs in advance. These are some of the basics. That's just another way to -- lastly, climate gentrification. This is often when white folks come into low-income areas or communities of color, right? Folks who may come in with a specific expressed purpose of taking advantage of property values. This can happen in that we saw displace folks even more, coercive in the sense of convincing people to simply move out of their properties or a little bit more impressive and intimidating when a question is asked around what documentation or proof of residency or ownership do you have of this particular property?

I will say too that one of the ways this comes up is thinking about communities as a blank Canvas, right? Specifically communities of color or historically marginalized communities, low-income communities -- [fast speaking] I can't tell you how often I gone to meetings with high-ranking officials and folks paid tons of money to do this work come in with this metaphor. It's blank Canvas as if there's not so much color, depth, community already in these locations. No one is asking those people in particular: What do you want on this Canvas? How can we use the colors that you already have to make this more beautiful than it already was before this and a disaster? Instead these conversations are happening without those vital voices. That's where the problem lies and why I bring it up here.

"A able accounts."

I want to shout out to -- [indiscernible] -- another way to making a sure that people have as many access as possible during a disaster. These are a couple of ways that able accounts can be used to put aside funds that can help with response during disasters emergency evacuations, or to purchases disability related items needed for a go bag.

Nobody talks about the money it takes to fill them except for advocates and people with disabilities who know about how expensive it could be.

We talk about it all the time. Sometimes folks remedies that seldom realize how expensive it can be for seven days.

"Replace...[reading]...motel."

Perhaps the shelter has not been stood up or people staying with family and friends. None of those houses of your family and houses are accessible. You've got to find someplace else to go.

"Secure educational supports...[reading]...new districts."

IUPs set up. Paid for recovery expenses associated with home accessibility repairs/removal of physical barriers."

This is the last slide for me. "Cross movement organizing & Cross-disability solidarity."

Disability justice picks up where disability rights leaves off. Not everyone has access to legal and legislative supports or can endure or afford extensive legal process, right? Think about what that means in terms of looking at this through a lens of centering those who are the most impacted in terms of recognizing wholeness, intersectional. All of these are disability is justice principles. If you're not familiar I can give you an ear full. You can check out -- [indiscernible] -- invalid.org. Someone check that for me [fast speaking]

Look at all those ten SINS invalid.com.

We want to center the voices, needs, priorities of beneficiaries. We don't want to push our priorities on them, but centering those voices. "Picked a vocation partners widely."

Fast a fast the local adapt chapter do, but how can we pick our partners widely? Go outside -- BLM and talking to the local immigration folks, are we talking to the local worker's Chamber of Commerce union? So people with disabilities have the supports as possible and reaching people in all communities. Of course, we have the disability community, but some people may not be directly connected to those communities. How can we go outside that to strengthen our advocacy. Cross movement organizing or solidarity. How can we work with one another giving people as much support as possible so they don't run into those risks.

Strategize around step I can change. That's really their problem and onus is on them. Can we look at that person's situation and -- wider problem deeper disparity? How can we have conversations around that to leverage the type of advocacy that we do collectively moving forward?

We want to absolute the efficacy of escalation tactics. Not all are warranted now folks. They can be fun, but not always wanted. Will this action bring you closer to your desired advocacy goal? We want to [fast speaking] with people with disabilities. What actions are we taking? Will it hurt, help? Who will it hurt or help? Only if it raises the status of our organization, but not only help people day-to-day basis -- no. That's not within our mission, values. If it's going to be taxing on one end in terms of putting in a lot of work and tedious -- [indiscernible] -- substantial benefit to the communities that we seek to serve if it goes through right. If we can actually get success in this area that we want to put in the time, figure out how to do that type of work.

Um, with different people, different areas. We want to collaborate to holistically address emergencies and crisis that impact beneficiaries."

Understanding people as whole people. Not just looking at people what does this mean as goes, parents? What does it mean if they are students or grandparents who are also taking care of younger children, right? Looking at this in a number of different ways in terms of -- sometimes that type of care can be informal and may not have custody of an individual, but may be the primary caregivers or others in their families or others around them. Folks may end up in certain positions and for all number of reasons, but we want to he will recognize, acknowledge them as people. How can we provide systemic change and engagement with them moving forward? Recognizing them as -- understanding those complexes which is important.

Now, we'll make the connection between financial considerations and fire safety. In order to do that let's get into a video before tossing over to the next presenter. Eli over to you.

Mark: I'm Mark larceny son for the national.

[VIDEO CAPTIONED.]

[Standby for Realtime Captions.]

>> MARK: Eli, I think that's enough.

What I have done for these is that there's a series of checklists for the payees to look at. When you get out doing your reviews, we have recorded an introductory video for each of them so that you can refresh yourself. It goes through briefly, when is on the checklist. A little refreshing guidance. I think Eli, can we go through the slide 15 please?

The checklists for the reviews are available at that website right now . I believe the links to the introductory videos are there as well. We've done a general guidance:

1) Residential homes.

2) Commercial facilities.

I'm not going to go through each of the checklists individually. If that's what you're going to be using, you can go through those yourselves and look.

Overall, across the country and the territories, there are numerous additions of the fire codes and safety standards used out there. In many cases, state and local governments can and do make modifications. A lot secret in the fire service is that there is no consistent standard for training or experience for those charged with -- [indiscernible] -- adopt the codes. Enforcement of the fire codes is a discretionary authority. You may be working with a beneficiary in one community and they're very strict, up-to-date, aggressive enforcing codes. Two miles down the road and you're in a different fire jurisdiction, and them do very little with code enforcement. The consistent thing about code enforcement is that it is inconsistent, and it is frustrating at times, but that's why one of the things I've tried to stress doing these things -- people say I'm not a fighter guy. What do I know? I'm just a payee person. My focus is financial.

What I've discovered working advocates over the years now at the NDRN, is that you guys have it going. You know how to listen, how to ask questions and how to pay attention to the bigger picture, see what's going on.

We hope to make you informed observers. You can read this yourself. One of the things I wanted to point out on this slide is that not every door in a building is an exit. Sometimes they have more doors than required to have. If you see a door in a building, if it's a required exit, it must be identified. They should have a sign over it unless, of course, it's a house. It should not be obstructed.

For a commercial facility has fire features, they're supposed to work. Like the pole stations, you see depending upon the type of facility how it is classified by the code of officials, when and where it was built, there is no standard width that's required in a facility. I can't keep track.

Use your common sense.

Walking down a hallway, if the corridor looks too narrow ask about it. Sometimes they'll have equipment in the corridor, the desks and chairs and sometimes gurney ease. Not every case is that bad. If it looks too narrow to you, ask about it.

Because the facility people that you're going to see, they are supposed to know., but you asking something, they don't know what you know. So if you ask with confidence, ask questions when you think it is appropriate, and the best thing that you bring with you is a willingness to ask questions.

Residential homes. The key things to look for in homes where you have people with disabilities. One of them is exiting.

Can they get out of the house?

Sometimes the house gets messy and Christmas time rearrange furniture and put stuff that's not norm there. One of the key differences like getting out of a house is important. In homes with people with disabilities, more often than not, the person with a disability is involved in the area of origin as opposed to homes where there are not individuals with disabilities.

Most important thing to look for when you're in someone's private resident is: Is there an exit? Can you get out? What's the difference between blocked and obstructed? You'll know. Could I get out of this without a hassle? Maybe they removed a refrigerator on -- you can tell if it's blocked or obstructed and suggest that they do something about it.

Another thing is working smoke alarms. Ask. Do you have working smoke alarms? Current codes require one in every sleeping room, which most folks call it bathrooms, but code geeks call it a sleeping room. On every level of the house. You would be surprised how many don't have working smoke alarms. Red Cross has a nationwide program where if you need smoke detectors they will they can get them for you.

If the person this a -- you're in their home visiting, you can refer them to the Red Cross. They also have smoke detectors for people who are deaf and hard of hearing. One of the things we've carbonate questions about is: Are carbon monoxide detectors required? Yes, in some codes, yes. In every case, are they needed? No.

You'll only need a carbon monoxide where you have potential for it. You've got to be burning a fuel of some sort.

Natural gas, propane, coal. There has to be some sort of a fuel or you don't get carbon monoxide. If it's all electric heat, electric stove and furnace and no detached garage or over a parking garage, then you don't need a carbon monoxide detector.

Ask if they have an evacuation plan. Plan.

At least go over it. We call it a table top exercise. If you look at what we're going to the, talk about it, go through the scenarios, at least when something bad happens, you have an idea of what to do.

There's two types of emergencies. One where something is on fire and you need to get out of the house now. That's one plan. Just was talking about disasters or impending doom coming your way, this a requires a different level of planning. One of the big things we see in, not just homes, but in commercial

facilities is an example of that picture up in the corner. Most older homes weren't wired to the point where all of the stuff, that we use now was planned on.

You'll see quite often is overloaded electrical outlets.

A power strip [indicating] is what's called an overload circuit where if it is overloaded it trips before the circuit breaker trips. So then you've just got an issue with the power strip.

Smoking materials. You'll see that a fair amount. You can ask. Do you smoke in the house? Generally, you can see evidence. Ash trays and cigarettes, or if they go outside and smoke. Pay attention to those areas.

Where people smoke you have more propensity to have fires.

Portable heaters. That's the third bullet point down. You'll see a lot of that depending on the climate. The picture here on the right, that's a good example of wanting an extension cord from one room to debt to an outlet in the other one. In homes with electric base board heaters, you want to look for anything that may be too close to them, in the checklists that are available online, we have a lot of pictures where there's good examples of currents up against the base board heaters.

Clothing is stuck inside the heating elements of a base board heater. If it looks bad to you, it probably is. Make suggestions that Natural Fire Protection Association has links to that in the checklist. There's a whole plethora of free home fire safety materials and checklists where you can download those, bring them with you or if you're in a client's on house, talk to them.

Go to the NFPA website see what's out there available.

Commercial facilities. We'll skip this video too.

"Key things to look for."

When you're going to these commercial facilities, at some point in time, somebody has suspected this, reviewed the plans. It has been licensed, approved and you don't have to wonder: Is this right? If it's a licensed facility you have somebody involved in getting its initial approval. Oftentimes, once the inspector leaves, things go back to normal as opposed to surprising it up when company comes over.

Things get back out where they were, less tidy, exits get obstructed., but you no, ma'am at different times, it gives you an opportunity to see exactly what's going on.

"Key things to look for."

"What fire agency responds to calls at this facility?"

You can ask: "When was your facility last inspected."

Any of the codes used out there across the country have some sort of a record keeping environment in that facility is supposed to have available, a copy of their last inspection onsite.

You can ask to see that. The forms will vary from the time, town and state. Generally, speaking they all have the same construction.

[Standby for Realtime Captions.]

>> MARK: On my end. If you think of questions after the presentation and looked at the checklists, feel free to reach out to me [indicating] and I will try get you answers.

As you get into this program and out doing evaluations, we'll have a means for you to contact me. I am your advisor and your guide through this interesting path we're all about to take. Thank you.

>> SPEAKER: Thank you, Mark. First thank you for the rich dialogue in the chatbox during this session. There have been a lot of great questions and feedback that has come about.

Question from Nately. I think this is directed at Justice. Investors that want to purchase properties that have been affected by --

>>: We saw this in Puerto Rico after hurricane Maria. And you have a lot of local advocacy around grassroots activism people saying no, these are historic neighborhoods and families have been here generations. To come in and wipe us out or force us to be displaced or remove us from this area is not okay.

Sometimes people will see disasters as opportunities. That could be true in some sense. In other senses what is one person's opportunity could be another person's huge obstacle. It could take shape in all numbers of ways. In terms of who these investors are could be corporations looking to set up a new headquarter site, hotels and luxury corporations that specialize in luxury and leisure in terms of vacations. It varies. It could be private individuals curious about buying new homes. Small investors who buy property, flip them and move on. It could appear in a number of ways hope that answers it Raquel.

>> SPEAKER: Where do people make referrals to address fire related concerns?

>> MARK: Probably the best place would be to -- unless you have asked who responds to fires at this facility or to that residential home, that would be the first place. If it's a commercial facility where they've been licensed, call the licensing entity first. Because you may live in a part of the country where the fire department is put out fires only. In some parts of the country the fire agencies do any fire enforcement. They have somebody else do that.

So there's no right answer. But if the fire guys don't do it, there's a good chance they'll know who does.

>>: There's a text message the chat about political decisions things-like that in terms of references. Good point. I want to be clear in terms of the information I mentioned by way of partners looking outside of the traditional disability community [fast speaking] people with disabilities are part of all communities and sometimes don't show up at the group focusing on blindness, maybe not in a particular group that focuses on autism. We want to understand this in an exploratory way and other groups. [overlapping speakers]

>> SPEAKER: Thank you for flushing that out for us. Currently, we are doing a year of our reviews virtually. At one point in time we're going to resume in-person reviews. Could you tell us the three most important things to look for out in the field, reviewing payees?

>> MARK: Fire safety point of view?

>> SPEAKER: Yes, please.

>> MARK: Being able to get out. Are the exits identified and do they know where to go and how to get there? First thing.

Notification, smoke alarms, do they have a working smoke law enforcement. Planning, do they have an vaccination plan? Commercial facilities should have it. Staff has been trained how to deal with that. In residential homes, I have discovered most people don't have a plan. How do we do? Where do we go? Once we get there?

One of the things that have come up in California now is planned power outages. Typically, when a storm comes to the East Coast and we know it's going to be a class something hurricane, they bring in all the equipment from the power companies from around the country and line up and at the ready waiting for the storm to quit and restore power. That's an emergency, people are geared up to help folks to help people being without.

Now, what we're seeing, especially in California -- and I'm guessing it will go to other states because of wild fires -- the power company says, by the way, we're going to turn your power off for two or three days. Deal with it. You know, there's a whole other level of people with disabilities being affected by what nobles is calling a disaster, but the impact on them is the same as a hurricane or a big storm where you're out of power for two or three days. This one comes from the power company saying -- about your power, nevermind.

>> SPEAKER: Thank you. How can payees connect with their local police departments to see what good vaccination plans like like?

>> MARK: Call them. You don't have to call 911. Most fire departments is have a nonemergency number. Ask what the nonemergency number is for the fire department.

Reach out.

[Standby for Realtime Captions.]

>> SPEAKER: How do you know what your PNA is doing wide and statewide contributing to emergency preparedness networks?

>> MS. JUSTICE: Hey there, I want to clarify because my phone was talking -- was the question what is my PNA doing [Repeat last sentence.] [fast speaking]

>> SPEAKER: Yeah, how do we find out on a community and statewide basis.

>> MS. JUSTICE: That's the simplest answer. There's not a lot I can tell you a national level. Every PNA is drastically different. Having a direct conversation with the PNA, giving them a call asking who is your point person on emergency issues would love to connect with them more, when he is being done already, partner and collaborate moving forward? That's the best way of getting the answer to those questions.

>> SPEAKER: Thank you. What are some of the decays that payees can get involved with emergency preparedness stakeholder meetings?

>> MS. JUSTICE: Typically a emergency management disability [fast speaking] task force in almost every state. Center for Independent Living and most of them are queued in and active around disaster issues

and emergency issues. They'll be able to clue you in and let you know when those meetings takes place. Most of them are stood up now because of COVID-19 and other crisis, right? Sometimes they'll come and been a together to do a lot of advocacy if there's a wildfire or hurricane making sure that people with disabilities are not forgotten -- different times, but right now everybody has been activated for a year or more at this point dealing with COVID-19 and all different crisis throughout to 2020 and now 2021. Reach out to the point person and they should be able to put you in touch with what's happening in a broader way. [Fast speaking] Equity and inclusion groups as well.

>> MARK: If you reach out making contact with the local fire agencies would be a great source for that too. How can I help or get involved? Every one of you has a [inaudible] to do. Maybe with your contacts you know somebody better at it or you can get inspired to do things. Collective access Justice talked about earlier in her presentation.

Spreading this plankton out over more people.

>> SPEAKER: Great. In closing. I want to thank you both for sharing your expertise with us. I look forward to additional webinars and I want to promote the next portion of this mini series which is the supporting beneficiaries and payees after natural disasters webinar. Scheduled for Wednesday February 24th the 3:00 p.m. eastern. At that time, we'll hear from Susan S. from Louisiana and Hector R. from Puerto Rico discussing their team's experiences working with payees, following natural disasters. We look forward to hearing from them and have you join us.

[Realtime event is concluded by:

Shanti Lira, Realtime Stenographer.]