

My name is Robin Hassler Thompson.

I'm the executive director of STAC.

I also co chair the Big Bend Coalition Against Human Trafficking.

You should know that the Big Bend Coalition Against Human

Trafficking, a co sponsor of this event, is in the North

Pan handle of the state of Florida.

We are a coalition comprised of really kind of all the types

of people that are on the chat now, child welfare agency,

folks, law enforcement, social services, community members,

faith, community, health care, really everybody.

Like many areas of our state and country where we have a

coalition to focus on the issue of sex and labor trafficking

or human trafficking.

So our coalition has taken on the role of being a sponsor

and an organizer for this event every third Friday.

So let me also tell you and I'll be giving you some information

about this later.

But if you want to make sure you know about all of these

events, I'll give you the link so you can sign up and get

all that information.

In the meantime, now that if you are in our area and you

would like to be part of the Big Ben Coalition Against Human

Trafficking, I welcome you to contact Kelly Docker.

You can see her name and number here in her email and know

that our next meeting will be on November 4.

And many of you, it might be the same thing you're facing,

but one of the issues that we are facing always is how do

we make sure that the people in our community who be trafficked,

who might be at risk of being trafficked, or who are assisting

people who are trafficked, can get information about this

organization, the Big Ben Coalition, as well as the services

we provide.

So that's our quest.

Each meeting, we like to focus and think about how we can

do our jobs better, really, to build the trust, to be able

to assist and support survivors.

A little bit about Stack.

That's the agency that I had on the executive director of

Stack. I'm a lawyer by training and trade, but I've been

doing policy work, I think, for the last three decades in

this area as well as in the area of violence against women.

We founded Stack.

I cofounded it with a small group here in Tallahassee six

years ago, and we have really twin missions.

One is to provide direct case management services, two survivors of sex and labor trafficking, and also to assist those who are at severe risk of being trafficked.

I also do a lot of work, as does our whole team in doing these kinds of programs, educational programs, really, those kinds of things that can help you.

We hope and trust wherever you sit and whatever you do in your personal life and your professional life as members of a faith community or other civic organizations, what you can do to help and trafficking in our world.

We are in Tallahassee which is a kind of urban area, suburban area. And we're also in the middle of a really big rural area. So we're doing our best to reach out also into those areas. As I mentioned, we also do lots of training.

One of the things we do, and I want to leave you with or

I'm not leave you with.

We're just starting to give you the website for Stack, which

is Survive and Thrive Advocacy Org.

That's where you're going to be able to see a recording of

this program, and really every third Friday for the last

year. Plus, we have those recordings, thanks to USF.

We have them up on our website.

We also will share any key information that our presenters

want us to on those links, and that's under our educational

resources tab.

Now, there's a lot of other stuff there on our website.

We've got posters, we've got social media graphics you can

use. Like, for example, you could say, oh, I just attended

this. I'm just going to tell you, I know it's going to be

a fabulous training today.

And I'd like to share the information I learned with you

all, and you can do that.

And we've got tools to help you do that.

Sharing on our website now, too, that everything we do is

free of charge.

We certainly appreciate all donations because it's only because

we can get funded to do this work that we can survive.

So know that all of our services for survivors in our community

outreach is free of charge.

Here's an example of something that we produce with the cares

money we got from Leon County, Florida, which is really to

have have this kind of an outreach tool for people to see

who might be trafficked.

And also, if you'll notice, even with those first four questions at the top of this, you'll see that we don't even mention the words trafficking, human trafficking, sex trafficking, because those four questions that might be useful for you to know and note down actually could be really the way you can start a conversation, or you could pick up on clues that someone might be trafficked.

So that was intentional in our part, because really, as we'll learn more, it's rare that survivors identify as being trafficked.

Right.

So this is one of the tools that we have on our website.

So today we have a really wonderful array of speakers.

And for anyone who has been working in this area or acquainted with human trafficking, you'll know how important the law is. And many of us have attended what we kind of casually

call human human Trafficking 101 programs, which go into

the ins and outs of the laws.

That kind of give you a broad brush approach to understand

some of the civil and criminal aspects of the law.

But we got today what we would do is go deeper on some really

specific areas, and there's so much to cover.

We're so grateful today to have experts from our community

with us.

First of all, I want to introduce Danica Harley and Melody

Andrews from the FSU College of Law.

And what I'm going to do for each of our presenters is doing

an intro of them.

And then we'll get into our program and we'll follow through

with our presentations in this order.

So let me introduce you to Danica, who I met when you were a law student, but you are now a 2021 graduate from the Florida State University College of La Mama.

Later, I'll just let you all know that right now.

Prior to attending law school, she graduated from the University of Central Arkansas with an Ms and College Student Personnel Services and Administration from the University of Memphis, Memphis, with a BBA and Economics.

While at the College of Law, Ms Harley was a student advocate within the VSU Public Interest Law Center Human Trafficking and Exploitation Law Project, or help a clinical experience representing child survivors of trafficking and various legal capacities. Other clinical experiences include the Children's Advocacy Clinic and Gender and Family Justice Clinic.

In 2020, Miss Harley was recognized as the Clinical Legal

Education Association Outstanding Clinical Student.

This award was for excellence in clinical field work and

for exceptionally thoughtful, self reflective participation

in an accompanying clinical seminar nominated by clinical

faculty at the FSU College of Law.

Ms Harley has received certification through the Professional

Certification in Trauma and Resilience Level one offered

through the FSU College of Social Work and in the fall will

be joining the FSU and that's kind of now, I think now you

have joined the FSU College of Law Public Interest Law Center

as an instructor.

Congratulations.

And I'd like to ask you, Danai, we're going to do this with

each of our speakers today as you're doing this work on human

trafficking. What was it that has drawn you to it and what has kept you interested in this topic?

Absolutely.

Well, first, I just want to say thank you so much, Robin, for having me today here today.

I'm so excited to be here to have the opportunity to speak

had my first experience and understanding of human trafficking

from the sense of receiving training to help educate businesses

about science, to look for potential survivors of human trafficking

and things that restaurants, hotel owners should be aware

of. It wasn't until I came to law school that I actually

got to participate in direct advocacy for survivors.

And that's when I realized how close to home that trafficking

hits within our community here in town, meeting survivors

who look like me, who could possibly be my sister or my cousin,

who I've shared some here lived experiences with, and realizing

that they're experiencing some of the most horrific atrocities

that could even be imagined.

That really set the fire in my heart to be involved and to

continue advocating and to continue making sure we are sharing

their stories that were helping to train people about what

to be aware of.

Thank you.

And yes, the ubiquity around this issue is really one of

the things that can really sort of be something everybody

should know about, really, who's on this call, no matter

where you sit, no matter what you do.

Thank you.

Okay.

As I can now introduce Melody Andrews, who is a rising three
or at the SSU College of Law.

She also attended undergrad at Florida State.

You're a double null and earned your Bachelor's in Theater
in creative writing.

She is dedicated to the public public interest and has been
involved in the Children's Advocacy Clinic and the Human
Trafficking and Exploitation Law Clinic and has interned
at the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence.

And I'd like to ask you also, Melody, how is it that you're
interested and involved in this issue of human trafficking
and what has kept you motivated to even to be with us today
and to do the work you've been doing in law school on this
issue? Thank you.

So when I graduated undergrad in two and twelve and I was

in a workforce for several years, and I wanted to come back

to law school in order to help people.

So I participated in the Children's Advocacy Clinic at Florida

State last fall.

And from there I spoke with Professor Nino and other people

that have been involved in the clinic and learned about the

Human Exploitation and Trafficking Law Project.

And from there, that's how I got my start.

Interacting with different survivors and learning has really

been very impactful, and it keep motivated because I really

like to see survivors thrive after their trauma.

And it's been what a wonderful experience.

Great.

Thank you.

And the fact that you have been so involved in this, I think
no matter what you would do in the legal profession going
forward, this is always going to be something I think that
you'll find resonant with your work no matter where your
practice area is.

And I'm mentioning that, too, because we are getting CLE
credits for this program today.

And I know we have a lot of lawyers on and I would challenge
any lawyer, and I'm going to next introduce Daniella, but
really challenge any lawyer to give an area of law that human
trafficking does not impact.

Right.

Okay.

So now let me introduce Daniella Denso, who is the Equal
Justice Work Fellow.

That position is sponsored by the Florida Bar Foundation

and Greenberg and Sharing and is hosted by the Legal Services

of North Florida Agency here in North Florida.

And we love LSF Daniella designated her Fellowship to be

Comprehensive Immigration Advocacy Program in North Florida

to serve immigrants or low income or crime victims, and established

immigration protocols, procedures and resources for LSN staff

and community partners.

Daniella Epass DACA recipient knows what it is like to have

your life shifted by fear and uncertainty because of the

broken immigration system.

Her personal and professional experience working with marginalized

communities has instilled an altruistic spirit that makes

her uniquely suited for this fellowship.

Donoso received her law degree from MSU College of Law and became a Florida Bar attorney in April 2021.

Donoso received her bachelor's degree in International Affairs and interdisciplinary Social Science from MSU.

She spent her undergraduate and graduate time working for the center for the Advancement of Human Rights, gaining mentors and experience and immigration and antitrafficking advocacy.

Daniela, I'm lucky enough to have met you when you were working for all those years with the human rights centered FSU.

And it's just lovely to see you as a practicing lawyer now,

but can you just give us a heads up about what your thoughts

are? Why is human trafficking been so resonant with you and

your life and your career?

Yeah.

Thank you, Robin.

And I think for me, having worked at the center for the Human Rights as an undergraduate student, I really got to see firsthand the importance of wrap around services for survivors and working with other stakeholders like Stack.

I really fell in love with the work.

And as mentioned, I myself threw up undocumented, and I understand some of those vulnerabilities that are emerging community space. And I really just want to keep growing as an advocate and keep learning.

Thanks for having me oh, you're so welcome, Daniella.

And we're really looking forward to hearing your presentation today as well.

So now I'd like to introduce Brent Woody, who is the executive director and lead attorney for the Justice Restoration Center.

Upon learning that legal services would be an emerging critical need and survivors restorative journeys, Brent started the Justice Restoration Center, a nonprofit dedicated to providing pro Bono, trauma informed legal services and anti traffic, asking advocacy on behalf of victims and survivors.

Brent has played critical roles in survivorcentered legislation, including Florida's human trafficking victim Expungement Law Y'all.

He is the expert on this issue in our state and also one of the few in our nation.

He and his wife, Pamela, advocates against trafficking, arranged safe prison releases, coordinating safe transportation and restorative housing for previously trafficked inmates.

Brent, like with the others, I'd love for you to give us some thoughts about why this issue, how you've been involved,

and some of your personal journey on what brought you here

today. Thank you, Robin.

First of all, I want to say, I feel really at home.

I graduated from USF, and then I graduated from FSU Law School.

So it's usually around, like, a million Gators.

And there may be a million Gators in this meeting, but I

don't know you, so I'm glad to be here.

When my wife and I first got involved in this movement, we

had the blessing to get to know a couple of our survivor

leaders here in the Tampa Bay area and become really close,

personal friends with them.

And I think it was the sort of learning, not their stories,

because what happened to them was not their whole stories.

It was just a part of their whole story.

And to kind of be a part of that and to hear what happened,
to experience that.

And in the context of that, I start to identify legal needs.

It was something that I couldn't turn away from and didn't
want to turn away from.

So early on, I just started trying to figure out what can
I do.

I'm not an immigration lawyer, and a lot of folks coming
forward were not for more traffic individuals.

So I just kind of stumbled along until really expungement
was sort of the turning point where so many of them came
forward with criminal record issues and that kind of thing.

And so I am absolutely privileged to do this work.

I would love that there was not the need for it.

I can't imagine doing anything else.

The most incredible.

Our clients are courageous and resilient, and I learn way
more from them than I do.

Good for them.

So it's an absolute privilege to do the work.

Thank you, Brent.

And I just Echo those feelings and the gratitude that we
have as well for the survivors that we're able to support
right in their journey and to connect them with needed services.

So thank you all.

And thanks for sharing your thoughts on that.

I think it provides a good framework for us moving forward
and also can provide that information for anybody who's listening
to know that this might be this this area of the law might

be something that you would know about because of the work

you do, might be one piece of the puzzle as you work with

an individual.

But I will tell you knowing about the issue will help you,

no matter whether you're in the law or social services or

a member of the faith community or a neighbor in a community.

So thank you all for sharing.

All right.

Let's get into the meat of our program now and talk a little

bit about human trafficking, if I could ask them to get the

next slide there.

So here's our 101 Port part extraordinarily collapsed.

But this is kind of the basis of where we start on this law

and really on what's human trafficking is within the legal

framework. So human trafficking is the recruiting, transporting,

transferring, harboring or obtaining a person using force

or fraud or coercion for commercial gain.

And so for this, you really have to focus on a couple of

key phrases.

One is this issue of force or fraud or coercion.

You don't need all those three.

And if you look at the next level of definition that I have

here is knowing that human trafficking is divided under the

law into two separate areas, sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

Sex trafficking is defined as the exploitation of a person

for commercial sex that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion.

So, again, there's an or separating that you don't need all

three. And in fact, if you're under the age of 18, under

both Florida and federal law, you don't even have to show

force, fraud or coercion because children are not legally able to consent to sex.

And so the law imputes to them in this instance that you don't have to show this element of force or fraud or coercion.

So no, too, that this Florida and federal law are directly parallel the same treatment regarding children in commercial sex is here no two in that definition above, where it says for commercial gain, this doesn't necessarily mean there has to be an exchange of cash or money in any way.

It could mean somebody has induced, for example, a child to commit a commercial sex act for food or for a place to stay or for drugs.

That could be the commercial gain, if you will, or the exchange that takes place.

Examples include prostitution, pornography, sexual servitude,

escort services, and also camming.

And that that is being online online services, showing for

pictures of yourself, performing certain acts, etc.

That's something that also is, as I understand it, since

the pandemic that another online activity, especially regarding

sex trafficking, has exploded, also know that labor trafficking

is another form of trafficking.

Both are under the rubric of human trafficking.

Labor trafficking refers to the exploitation of a person

for labor services, again, through force or fraud or coercion.

It is only under Florida law, though, where you don't have

to show force, fraud or coercion for labor trafficking, just

as is the case with sex trafficking.

So know that those are kind of the basics in terms of the

law on this.

And also, I thought it might be helpful to just share a couple

of other things on this issue of force or fraud or coercion.

First of all, to know that the issue of coercion is one that

is probably the the most common that we see.

If you look at the movie taken or you think about kidnapping,

rarely is that the case where victims of human trafficking

are snatched off the street or abducted.

But you see more as a grooming process or an insinuation

where the trafficker makes promises, where the trafficker

gets to know that person so well that they can really push

their buttons, if you will, in building trust with that individual.

All elements of coercion also include things like threats

or holding documents.

It could be any kind of psychological abuse, threats to the

person or harm it's the creation of a dependence on the trafficker.

Those examples are ones that I think everybody who's going

to speak to this issue today can probably relate further.

And also on the issue of fraud, what we see all the time,

their lives, broken promises.

I'll make you a star, I'll give you a job, you'll move here,

you'll be able to send money home.

All those things that we know are outright lies that the

traffickers put out there to be a benefactor or to really

tell someone.

And by the way, particularly in this time of COVID, when

folks are even more vulnerable, those lies and promises become

even more powerful, if you will, as people are indeed more

vulnerable economically.

This is how we're going to go into the areas of the law and we're going to talk about traffic youth.

And that will be a presentation by Melody and Danica.

Danielle is going to talk to us about immigrants and then

Brent is going to talk about expungement issues.

And right now we'll move into our very first PowerPoint presentation.

Alright.

So let me turn it over to you, Danica and Melody.

Wonderful.

Thank you so much, Robin.

As Robin mentioned, I will be presenting alongside of Melody.

We are from the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Law Project

from the Ft College of Law.

Our project focuses on working with minor trafficking victims

and survivors and recognizing and supporting at risk.

You pass a tonality to begin the presentation.

I thanks, Danika.

At first we'd like to just give a brief presentation overview

and let everyone know that this presentation is going to

discuss trauma and the needs of commercial sexual exploited

children survivors.

We're going to define safe houses and safe foster homes.

We're going to review findings from the 2021 Paga CSET report

and we're going to identify some limitations of safe houses

and safe foster homes.

We also like to just give some terminology examples.

These will be used quite often in our presentation.

So we'll discuss the difference between dependency children

and community children.

We'll talk about sex and when I say sex, that means commercial sexual exploitation of children.

These are the children that have been survivors of sex trafficking.

We'll also discuss safe houses in safe foster homes as well as trauma therapy and trauma informed advocacy.

As Robin said, this is not a one on one presentation, but

we do want to give some background on trauma because it's

really important to understand, especially in the context

of human trafficking and understanding the purpose of safe

houses. Trauma, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental

Health Administration, results from a physical, emotionally

harmful or life threatening event that has lasting and verse

effects on the person's functioning and mental, physical,

social, emotional or spiritual well being.

There are a few different types of trauma there's simple

trauma versus complex trauma.

Simple trauma is, for example, would be like a car accident.

It's a one time event that can have serious trauma on a person.

Complex trauma is ongoing.

So the Public Interest Law Center that help we've had clients

that have been victimized by different clients over time

for years.

This can lead to retraumatization when talking with investigators

or anyone trying to get more information about the trafficking.

Complex trauma includes can lead to triggers that look like

PTSD. So we'd like to take a moment to talk about the importance

of trauma services because the experience of being trafficked

has lasting adverse effects on children.

Specifically with trauma.

We should note that trauma can exist before, after, and during incidents of trafficking.

Various experiences of abuse can have compounding effects.

Manifestations of complex trauma have long term effects, again resembling post traumatic stress disorder with Comet.

Informed services are not provided to survivors.

We know that there's a likelihood survivors will develop maladaptive coping mechanisms such as substance abuse, so abusive marijuana, alcohol as coping mechanisms.

Also, if children survivors do not receive Thomas services, we will see survivors being trafficked as adults as well.

Trauma can affect people in different ways.

It can take longer time to build trust with clients that have been traffic or experience this level of trauma.

Things can become more difficult, and it can again lead to

being trafficked as adults if they are trafficked as children.

Same definition of trauma.

Focus therapy is a program, organization, or system that

is trauma informed.

It realizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands

potential password recovery, recognizes the signs and symptoms

of trauma and clients, families, staff, and others involved

with the system, and responds by fully integrating knowledge

about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices and

seeks to actively resist retraumatization.

Now we'd like to talk about two different types of children

that are at risk for trafficking.

The first is dependency children, and the second is community

children. What distinguishes dependency children is that

prior to the commercial exploitation of children, they were subject of reports of abuse, abandonment, or neglect that resulted in the determination of dependent status.

In other words, they and they became involved in the dependency system. Community children are children that have not had prior involvement with the dependency system and with the commercial exploitation of children or trafficking is involved.

Both children groups have vulnerabilities that make them targets of traffickers.

Both children groups need services following trafficking to prevent further traumatization or re victimization.

Both children groups are capable of resiliency when adequate services and interventions are provided.

All survivors of SEC and safe houses or safe foster homes receive a case manager and a case plan, even if they're not

in the dependency system.

Some of the vulnerabilities just to mention our homelessness

and runaway status.

And within community children, we have a few.

We've noticed clients that have been homeless in the past

have ended up in trafficking situations, so that is a high

risk factor.

Now we can get into the law about safe foster homes versus

safe houses.

The law for a statute for 9.1678 and it provides specialized

residential options for children.

A safe foster home is a foster home certified by the Department

under this section, to care for sexually exploited children

in a safe house is a group residential placement certified

by the Department.

A safe houses and safe foster homes must provide a safe, separate, and therapeutic environment tailored to the needs of commercially sexually exploited children who have endured significant trauma.

Part of this section of the statute says that they must use strengthbased and trauma informed care, and they must serve exclusively one sex.

And they group child survivors by age or maturity level.

So now we can discuss the purposes of safe houses.

It protects and conceals.

The survivor, provides intense trauma therapy and other types of counseling in a safe environment and remove the survivor from the place where the trafficking in trauma occurred.

Safe houses can provide safety.

They can help survivors build trust with safe adults, help survivors regain personal power and move towards independence in health.

Has participated in a podcast with a Florida Council Against

Sexual Violence, and we've heard stories about safe houses

giving survivors toiletries and towels when they get there

to the safe house in order for the survivors to take a shower

and kind of mentally wash away their past life in order to

move forward.

Now we can go and transition more specifics with the law

with Danica.

Thank you.

Melody, listen here on the side, you'll find services that

are required by Florida statute to be to be provided by safe

houses and safe foster homes.

These homes must either arrange, provide, or coordinate these

services to their survivors.

There's one service in particular that I'd like to highlight,

which is the mentorship by survivors.

We found in literature that mentorship by survivors has been

found to be a promising practice and build.

Experts have reported that improved outcomes have been demonstrated

when it utilized with survivor children.

One thing that's interesting to note, however, across the

state of Florida, across safe houses and safe foster homes,

only four providers in the entire state utilize the mentorship

of survivors.

And between those four providers, only twelve survivors share

or serve as mentors.

This is interesting and due in part to the fact that some of these survivors are ineligible to serve as mentors because of past criminal history.

As Melody mentioned, one of the things that we have utilized in our research is the page report.

Paga is the research arm of the Florida Legislature, and it stands for the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability. They released this report just last month, actually, and this report contains some information that is really insightful about the commercial exploitation of children in Florida.

Now, one thing I want to recognize is that there are limitations to this report.

We recognize that this report is only looking at a sampling

of what we know is the larger child trafficking issue and crisis here in Florida.

We recognize that the report was based off of children that have gone through that sort of gateway of going through the abuse hotline and being verified as a survivor of sex trafficking.

So as I mentioned, this is a sampling of what is, in fact, a much larger issue.

In 20, 2383 children were verified as survivors of sex trafficking.

Now, if you look at the screen, you'll see between the safe houses and safe foster homes we have a combined total of 87 beds.

Now, I might not be great at math, but if I looked at that 383 number of verified survivors, which we know the likely much higher number of true survivors compared to only 87 beds, you would find that less than survivors would be able

to be placed in the bed.

The fact of the matter is, is the fact that that also remain empty. A lot of those placement decisions are based off of potential conflicts within the residential home with current children staying in the home as well as the needs of that particular survivor.

Ultimately, we also recognize that the decision to place a child in a home is left to the decision and the discretion of the provider.

In the past year, in 2020, only 59 verified survivors of trafficking replaced.

That leaves 291 children who are not placed in a safe foster home or a safe house.

I want to recognize, however, that in some cases these children

are better suited for placement in facilities like a residential substance abuse treatment center or mental health treatment center. We also recognize that some of these survivors can be better assisted through the provision of wraparound services.

That means that wrap around services are able to be provided to benefit them while they can stay in their own home.

So I want to go through the process of how a determination for placement is made.

I'm going to use some terminology on the side.

I do break down.

First, we know that a child must be identified as a survivor of commercial sexual exploitation at that point that that child is identified.

A community based care organization or CBC will determine what the appropriate placement is.

In order to make that determination, a multidisciplinary team staffing meeting or MDT staff meeting takes place.

That MDT team includes investigators, supervisors, regional human trafficking coordinators, regional criminal justice coordinators, DJJ staff, service providers, law enforcement, Guardian item, as well as other parties advocates.

If you have the opportunity, you should ask DC to attend an MBT staffing as another party.

We have done that for our cases, and we found that being able to be there at the table, we are able to help get services in place for our survivor clients.

And with regard to dependency children, we recognize that DOL Guardian at items should always be notified in attend MVPs. Now, with regard to the level of care placement tool,

that tool examines and analyzes that individuals experience.

They're going to look at runaway history, foster care history,

current involvement with either a gang or trafficker, current

substance abuse, behavioral and psychiatric history, positive

support systems, and consideration of the location.

They also want to look at the readiness for that child to

receive services.

Now, we recognize there are reasons given for non placement

of survivors.

As I mentioned earlier, a higher level of care may be needed,

whether that's through a substance abuse treatment center

or mental health facility or possibly even a DJJ commitment

program. We also recognize that safe phones may frequently

refuse you who are actively engaged in their recruitment

activity. That's activity where they try to recruit other

children to participate in a trafficking or exploitation

claim. They also we also recognize you may be refused if

they display histories of violence or have complex, unmet

needs. As mentioned earlier, there's also limitations for

safe pass placement when there is either a gang affiliation

or a commonality of traffickers between the current residents

of the home in the perspective President, Ultimately, when

a conflict of interest arise, that child will not be placed

because the conflict of the needs and not wanting to put

conflicting children in the same home Christmas next.

I recognize that children may be on runaway status.

According to the 21 page report of children who were verified

as trafficking survivors were then later found to be on runaway

status of the time that they are evaluated replacement.

Now that runaway status doesn't prohibit them from being included and eventually being placed in residential placement, however, it delays the provision of services.

So here we've included some of the limitations of safe houses.

As I mentioned, one of the things that we recognize with safe houses is the fact that there may be a delay in placement.

There's a time between the when the child is recognized, identify and verified to when they are actually receiving a placement.

That time can elapse between months, weeks, in some cases, even years, unfortunately, and that is very frustrating when you have a survivor client who is in need of services.

Furthermore, we recognize the needs of transgender youth and non binary use.

They are truly need to be recognized, and additional training

needs to be provided to service providers in making sure that they understand how working with survivors who are transgender and binary.

We also recognize, due to coin, there are limitations on Safe House employee staffing and the availability, the number of employees you can be in the home, as well as the exclusion of survivors with children.

We have found working within the clinic that a lot of our female clients have children of their own, and so when they come into the system with a child, it's much harder for them to find a placement for them and their child next slide.

So what can advocates do?

One of the first things is to encourage foster families to get Safe House Safe foster home certified.

In order to become certified, foster families need only take an additional 24 hours of training as well as satisfying more stringent home requirements.

I'll say for myself personally, when I saw the need in our community for the foster care system and I actually follow the children who are involved in the system, I recognized that there was a need for more foster parents and more people in the community to step up to be foster.

I've had the opportunity to go through training, and I'm glad to say that because of that, I can be part of the solution to help stand in the gap.

In the meantime, we also want to see Thomas Therapy for at risk children.

As Melody mentioned, children who are on mono status Chronicle chronic run away children or children who have been sexually

abused in the past.

These are children who we have identified as being at risk

or human trafficking.

And lastly, if you're a part of case plans, make sure that

you're advocating for trauma therapy, whether that's through

equine therapy or music therapy, USA therapy that have been

found to help open the door and encouraging trafficking survivors

to be safe and open.

Thank you.

Trauma Informed Advocacy So we talked a lot about Tama.

We recognize trauma does not just manifest in one way.

Trauma may show up in a bunch of different ways, but it's

important to recognize some of the initial science.

This is, of course, not an in depth treatment of trauma informed

advocacy, but some of the things that you should be aware of when dealing with survivors.

You may recognize that there is a diminished trust in authority figures or professionals, as well as feelings of helplessness and difficulty regulating emotions.

As an advocate, you want to do your best to avoid retraumatization.

You want to understand the triggers and the things that really disturb your survivor clients.

Next, you want to empower your survivors by developing trust.

Trust is a fragile thing.

It takes a long time to build up, and it could be shattered in an instant.

With a client that we had that lived in Ocala, we were actually able to help develop that trust simply by showing up to being a reliable person, a consistent person in their life.

It came to the point where every time I came to visit, I made sure I bought food with me because that was something that she looked forward to and relied upon, and that helps us to establish trust.

Next slide.

We have listed here two opportunities for professional certification, if you'd like more information.

These are offered through the Epic College of Social Work.

They're in trauma and resilience and human trafficking, prevention and intervention.

And I want to give a shout out to Robin because she was a major facet in the creation of that certification.

Here is a class of the terms listed in our presentation next slide. And for a reference, we've included links to the Public

interest law centers, the Florida Statute, the Page Report,

as well as CBC contact information.

Cbcs are organized regionally, and so we want to make sure

you are able to get in contact with our community based care

organizations that are providing these services to survivors.

Thank you so much for joining our presentation today, and

I will pass it back to Robin.

Okay.

Now I'd like to ask Daniella, we're going to bring you up

next. Yeah.

Thank you to Dana Gun Melody, that was awesome.

A lot of great information, and I don't want this to feel

like disconnected.

I know it's a totally different kind of subject matter, but

we're going to be talking about immigration and human trafficking,

and we can go to the next slide.

So first, I just wanted to give an example because I know

Brent is going to go into more of the expungement and things

like that.

And so an example of human trafficking of an immigrant survivor.

This is from the Survivor Reentry Project, American Bar Association

Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence from one of their

training. So in the 2011 New York Vacatur case demonstrating

intimate partner trafficking, domestic violence victims husband

lured her from the Dominican Republic to the US by falsely

promising that the abuse would cease and that he would help

her obtain immigration status.

When she arrived in the US, however, she physically abused

her, imprisoned her against her will, and ultimately exerted

control over her entire life.

The victim's husband forced her to engage in illegal activities, including prostitution, and took all of her income to support his drug addiction.

The court found that the victim's experience qualified her for Vacate relief and vacated the criminal convictions on her record traffickers.

We know and still this kind of fear and exploit vulnerability and their victims while convincing them that there are law breakers and thus unable to go to the authorities for help or for protection, we can go to the next slide.

So really just to set the kind of framework that for our national victims face an additional risk within the criminal justice system because immigration status could be severely impacted by criminal legal involvement.

Next slide.

And so when we talk about the criminal legal system and non

citizens, when we think of crimes that meet the definition

of a crime of moral interpreted, which I won't really get

into death today.

But these present specific dangers to form more survivors

who previously adjusted or attempted to adjust their citizenship

status. Non citizens can also be denied initial or reentry

into the US if there are immigration officials or Border

Patrol officials that have reason to suspect that they're

entering for purposes of committing some form of crime, maybe

prostitution. And it can be based off of any arrest or conviction

records that they might have.

And also these convictions can borrow foreign criminal.

Sorry.

You can also for foreign national victims from a variety of forms of immigration relief, which we are going to very briefly go over today.

Next slide.

So again, this is not an exhaustive list whatsoever.

Immigration is very complicated, but these are just some of the more common forms of immigration well available to survivors. Next slide.

So we're going to start with continued presence.

And continued presence allows otherwise undocumented survivors to remain in the United States as long as they continue to cooperate with law enforcement and provide access to some benefits and employment authorization.

So continued presence is temporary.

It's not a lawful status in the US.

It just allows those survivors to legally stay in the US,

which might sound confusing.

But continued presence has to be requested for a survivor

by a law enforcement agent.

And so advocates can work with that law enforcement agency

that might be investigating the trafficking to apply for

continued presence.

And actually, now the Department of Homeland Security has

a center for countering Human Trafficking and sort of this

new continued presence program.

So they'll work with advocates to assign a victim assistance

specialist specifically to get this continued presence petition

sent to immigration services.

So advocates, you know, typically there's affirmative applications, some of which we'll talk about today, but continued presence.

You can request it as an advocate to the law enforcement agency, but sometimes it's totally out of your hands because it has to come from the agency that's investigating it's up to them to send the request to USCIS to US Immigration Services for that client.

And these are issued for no more than one year increments.

And with continued presence typically, I guess our best practices would be to apply for that as soon as an investigation begins of the trafficking, to allow your client to have that stability of a work permit while they're waiting, let's say, for their Tvisa to be adjudicated.

So visa.

In order to receive a TV's, also known as a trafficking visa,

the applicant must cooperate with any requests for assistance

in the investigation or prosecution of any acts of trafficking.

And the person must have been a victim of a severe form of

trafficking, be physically present in the US on account of

the trafficking, and be likely to suffer extreme hardship

if they removed or deported.

Something sort of similar the US up and the next slide.

So for you visas, a victim also must cooperate and be willing

to cooperate in a criminal investigation.

It's a requirement for the you visa.

And so there's something called the Supplemental Be certification

form. And this certification form is typically signed by

the law enforce, let's say, law enforcement agency that is

investigating the case.

So if there is a criminal case open, the advocate will want

to ask the criminal justice agency to sign the certification

that basically says that the person was a victim of a crime.

That explains a crime, and the crime must be one that's designated

by the TPA must be a qualified crime in order to be qualified

for a UV done so again, it is a requirement.

But there is also if there is no, let's say, police report

or there's no criminal law enforcement agency investigating

the case.

If you have a case of someone who's been a victim of domestic

violence, domestic violence is a qualified crime for you

visa. And so you could ask a judge, a family court judge

who has issued an injunction to sign the certification form

as well.

But it must have been a crime that violates a domestic law

and it must have occurred while being in the US.

And again, it's very brief over you.

But recipients of these forms of immigration relief are eligible

for employment authorization and some benefits and services

available to victims of trafficking.

And something I didn't mention.

So even now recently, USCIS change some rules.

And luckily, survivors who have a pending you visa can if

they pass a bonafide determination review of their you visa

case, then they may be eligible for employment authorization

while they wait for an adjudication of their petition.

So it used to be that you would have to wait without an employment

authorization for your visit to be adjudicated and then get

a work permit.

And now this is a huge form of relief for those survivors

who are kind of in limbo while they wait for education.

We can have some stability again with that work authorization.

And again, the T and U visa provide that temporary loss immigration

status. And then you have the option of adjusting to permanent

legal resident status.

So there is that pathway to citizenship with both the T and

the visa.

Next slide.

And then again, just to reiterate.

So when representing any known citizens, it's critical to

consult with an immigration attorney to ensure that the legal

action that they're a part of won't cause any adverse consequences

and subsequent immigration proceedings.

And for clients who have not previously had immigration representation,

also essential to contact an immigration attorney to see

if there are any other forms of immigration relief which

they might be eligible for.

Because again, this was not exhaustive at all.

I didn't have time to go into some of the other ones, but

just wanted again to give a brief overview, different immigration

release that is out there for non citizens, and that's critical

to consult with an immigration attorney about them.

Thanks anyway, Daniel.

Great.

Thanks.

And I think that point is one that I know I've seen how important

that is time and time and time and time again, even with

one of the last questions we see in the chat, which is, is

it better to get a visa or T visa?

And while the TVA was created for trafficking victims, it

might actually be better to get a visa.

Right.

Or it might be better to go under if, say, the victim is

a victim of of domestic violence, maybe they should go under

yet another immigration remedy, right.

With what's available to victims of domestic violence.

So it depends, right?

Absolutely.

The best attorney answer.

It depends on each client.

Yes or only on the bar that we're always an answer.

Right.

Answer to us.

We get them.

All right.

Okay.

Alright.

Well, thank you, Daniella.

And now I'd like to queue up Brant for our next presentation.

How's that?

Thank you, Robin.

Looks good.

You can actually just advance on the slide for if you have

that capability with Justice Restoration Center is a nonprofit

talked a little bit about that before.

We provide no cost legal services to human trafficking victims

and survivors exclusively.

And so that's just something that I have been doing full
time since 2015.

And as I said earlier, it's a privilege to be able to do
this work today.

I just kind of want to talk just sort of a brief overview
of criminal record ex, punction or expungement.

We kind of use those terms interchangeably, and we'll talk
a little bit about the importance of it and a little bit
about the process.

And I will say if this sounds like a super dry topic and
technical and that sort of thing, it is in some respects.

But I do want to say that when you have the opportunity to
share the news with a survivor that her or his criminal record
has been expunged, it's a pretty remarkable experience.

And we'll talk a little about the results of criminal record

expungement. But it's a super important area for many of

you advocates who are familiar.

You have clients who have criminal records almost firsthand,

the effect of itself, human trafficking related legal issues.

Pretty intuitive here.

Criminal records that come about as a result of being trafficked,

which can be if it's a sex trafficking situation, you may

have prostitution, other related sex crimes if it's labor

trafficking, and often those two overlap.

We see a lot of labor trafficking within a sex trafficking

scheme. You may have been forced to engage in illegal activities

like stealing from Walmart and various drug related activities.

So you'll still end up with with a criminal arrest record.

We have course debt and debt bondage, family law issues.

We coordinate out of state Council, always working with warrants

and that sort of thing, intellectual property rights, which

I won't go into.

But that's a thing, too related to survivors.

Danielle mentioned, certainly immigration the impact on immigration.

And you can go to the next slide there.

We do a good bit of trafficking related case management.

So we talked about safe prison release, housing, coordinating

trauma therapy.

We're not trauma therapist, but we should get our clients

connected when needed, employment opportunities and collaborate

like crazy with other service providers, many of whom I noticed

are in this meeting.

Yeah.

So then we work on Florida and Tennessee law in terms of

legislative and policy advocacy, and we're working on some

federal law as well, federal expungement and vacatur law.

Next slide.

So today, no Florida criminal arrest records.

Go ahead to the next slide.

There the consequences of a criminal record.

Danica touched on this earlier, and somebody asked us about

this in the chat employment.

And I'll just mention the dilemma that we have with our survivor

mentor candidates so often have a criminal arrest record,

and we represent several of them in terms of trying to clear

their records.

Yes.

Their records can be cleared if their record was related

to their trafficking.

So it's a thorny issue.

I feel like this needs to be dealt with sort of a Sidebar

here, but I think it needs to be dealt with to open up these

opportunities to live experience experts to serve as survivor

mentors, even when they have criminal records that possibly

are not eligible for expungement.

Consequences of criminal record, employment, housing, education,

volunteering, civic participation.

If you're convicted felon, you can't vote.

Child custody issues, immigration issues.

Go ahead to the next slide.

And then the less tangible but no less important, stigma,

shame, and the low self esteem that can come from that being

retraumatized by just the memory of a criminal arrest record,

the memory of being arrested, the trauma triggers related

to that family relationships for the family doesn't understand.

Why did you choose to do this?

Why do you have a criminal record?

Why did you get arrested for prostitution and just social

relationships, friendships and the like?

Go ahead on the next slide.

So one of the key factors here and we talk about this a lot,

is how the arrest and the arrest to create increase and perpetuate

vulnerability. They actually make it more difficult for a

survivor to engage in their restorative journey and to recover

from what's happened to them.

To get a normal life, either get back to a normal life or

get to a normal life for the first time.

So we have got to stop looking at rest as some sort of exit ramp from the life.

It does sometimes get survivors out of the life, but at great cost. And as we'll see, go ahead to the next slide.

I actually can get them stuck in the cycle of being arrested.

So they exit the exploitation, maybe go through some recovery processes, but they can't get a job, can't find housing, they don't really have a meaningful choices.

So they're vulnerable again for re, exploitation rearrest, and this cycle just continues.

And so we have expunged as many as 50 cases from a client in one county.

Just because it was a revolving door arrest is not a great exit ramp from the life.

So section, Go ahead next slide.

Sorry.

Section 943.58(3) is Florida's human trafficking victim

expunction law passed in 2013, and we began to use it when

it became enacted in 2014.

Filed our first successful expungement petition in 2014.

It is it's an amazing law.

And I'm just so glad I'm in Florida, we have such a good

law because we use it literally every day, and we've expunged

probably over 800 charges now since that time.

Next slide.

Go ahead.

So just a quick overview of the process.

Obviously, we have to determine eligibility for our clients

use of the law.

So that involves making sure identifying them as a trafficking victim, which may have already occurred from a service provider or from law enforcement or whoever the referring agency is.

But sometimes they just come to us directly and we determine whether or not they were trafficking victim, whether or not their charges that they need to expunge were related to their trafficking.

We'll talk more in depth about that in September, kind of how that process is and what constitutes being related to their trafficking.

There's information gathering which involves the gathering their criminal record, preparing the documents to be filed.

So obviously, again, petitioner must have been a victim of you in trafficking.

The offenses that we're going to seek to expunge have to

be eligible offenses.

So there are some that we cannot expunge, which are the more

violent murder, arson, robberies and things like that that

are not eligible to expunge.

And there has to be a Nexus to the arrest and order conviction.

And we've gone over.

This is elementary.

I think person subjected to coercion.

This is from the statute as defined in 7D eight, seven six

for the purpose of being used in human trafficking, or a

child under 18 years of age subjected to human trafficking,

or an individual subjected to human trafficking is defined

by federal law.

That's not as easy an analysis as it may seem, and we will

go into more depth in that in September as well.

There are a lot of nuances to that, and it's really important,

I think, for lawyers and non lawyer service providers to

have some understanding of what a person at a survivor may

be eligible for in terms of defining them as a trafficking

a trafficking victim.

Go ahead to the next slide.

And what does the petitioner what does a survivor have to

do in this process?

I know that some States require a survivor to go to a hearing

or to participate in the process in a really invasive way,

in a way that has the potential to retraumatize the survivor

in Florida.

Thankfully, we don't have those requirements.

So the hardest part of this process for a survivor is to

provide the information about what happened in their trafficking

situation. And sometimes in some cases, we don't need to

get a lot of information.

For example, if a survivor trafficker was prosecuted in federal

court and our client participated in that investigation and

prosecution and testified, that documentation in and of itself

is going to be sufficient to file and to obtain the expungement.

So we're not even going to have to delve into what happened

to them.

And, of course, we prefer that so that we're not somebody

else asking them again to go talk about their victimization

anyway, they'll be helpful for gathering documents in some

situations. Again, I keep plugging the September thing, but

there may be a situation where they would need to interview

with a prosecutor, and we have a process for that that we
can talk about.

They will not have to go to court.

And that is one of the key things that we're able to tell
our clients.

This is not going to involve you going to court.

You will not be deposed.

You're not going to have to go through a situation that is
potentially going to be retraumatizing.

Go ahead, Robin.

Next line, certainly survivor concerns, which I touched on.

How long is it going to take and we don't ever know how long
it's going to take.

It does depend on what circuit we file in and how fast the
prosecutor, state attorney or statewide folks respond.

But normally we get get it through a couple of months, a

few months, sometimes faster.

In some certain situations, we actually did one overnight.

That's another story.

But there's not a real clear answer to that.

But it won't take years, typically, anymore.

So we'll have to appear in court testify.

No.

Is the information public?

It is not supposed to be.

We have to wrangle a little bit with our clerk's offices

who don't always keep keep it confidential.

That's a tweak that we need to make to our expungement law

to make sure that these petitions to explain or confidential

because of the devastating information that's revealed in

a typical sworn statement.

What happens if we win?

What happens if we lose?

We'll navigate those.

Go ahead.

And next slide.

And again, once the petition is filed, we hurry up and wait.

Sometimes the state will want more information in the state

ultimately will respond by either objecting to it, which

is essentially never happens or stipulating to it, which

is what we prefer or at least not objecting to not objecting

to the petition if the state stipulates or at least doesn't

object. And we send a proposed order to the court, and the

court generally signs it without a hearing.

The next slide.

So based on the final order, the clerk of court seals the court records for the expungement order to the other agencies who have to comply with the statute, and they either expunge or seal their records.

And go ahead to that next slide.

There.

The petitioner is entitled to a refund because in Florida under 943 1883, an expungement actually affects a vacatur of any related conviction, a substantive vacate.

So a vacatur on the merits.

That's important for immigration purposes as well.

But in this case, if they have paid fines related to the expunged criminal arrest record, they're entitled to a refund

of those fines.

And that's a US Supreme Court law US Supreme Court case from

2017. So it's a very thorough, really incredible remedy.

And importantly, a petitioner with a successful expungement

may lawfully deny the arrest with two exceptions.

One is if they're a defendant in a future criminal case,

and the other is if they apply to a criminal justice agency

for employment.

And as I said, an expungement under that section, vacates

any underlying conviction.

I can't overstate the importance of the of that vacatur.

Next slide, Robin.

The effect eliminates fines.

It eliminates probation elites, a warrant.

It could even eliminate incarceration related to a sentence

from an expunged case.

It also if we expunge a felony record or felony records,

and those are the only felonies on an individual's record.

Then their civil rights would be restored as a matter of

law. They would no longer be a convicted felon and reinstating

driver's licenses.

And I got a shout out to DMV who work with us all the time

on getting our clients driver's license reinstated.

And so that's obviously critical for their restorative journey.

As they need to go to work, you need to Tis to school and

the various reasons for needing a driver's license.

Next slide already mentioned the fine refunds and the effects

of vacating.

Go ahead.

Next slide.

Robin, super important area here the emotional piece, the non sort of non practical piece of the effects of expungement, which we did not even think of when we filed our first expungement petition. The emotional side of things, the reputation mitigating, the effects of the trauma that might have been caused by the arrest, the criminal record, a sense of justice on the part of our survivor, even in cases even in cases where we haven't been able to expunge their entire record, still, the part of their record that was related to their trafficking, there still is this sense of indication and almost victory, something that has happened to them that's positive in the context of the system.

I can overstate how important that is for just their emotional wellbeing and how much that fuels them to keep moving forward

in their in their attorney.

Good.

Next slide, Robin.

And then there are post expungement concerns, which we could

talk about for 2 hours by itself, just dealing with the residual

issues, even when we get everything off of the state databases

and that sort of thing, and it doesn't show up in the FDLE

report of the FBI report.

They're still out there in commercial websites, arrest com,

those sorts of things, news stories that we find years later

that talk about our client agencies that don't remove the

records. So legitimate background agencies, but they don't

update their records to show that to take our clients information

off warrants sometimes in other counties didn't get picked

up. And so we have to deal with those.

Go ahead.

Next slide.

And that's it.

So that's a really fast brief overview.

There's lots of pieces to it.

I find the piece is really interesting.

Some of them are important in terms of their relationship

with survivors, in working with them, and that sort of thing.

I'm incredibly grateful to all of you.

Brent, Danica, Daniella, Melody, Brent, are there any questions

here that you can address in terms of records?

Connie, as if arrest and conviction records are checked.

Does this check us?

Multiple country databases, counties, etc?

I mean, the records issue is huge, isn't it?

It is.

And as far as I'm not aware of any international database

for criminal arrest records, maybe there's one.

Daniel element may know better in the immigration context,

but I'm not aware of that.

So typically what we're looking at are local state records

and then the federal database, which would have other States.

So that's the extent of that.

I'm aware of somebody a no asked in the chat, too, about

labor trafficking survivors and the ease of expunging to

say ease of expunging, because none of them are particularly

easy. There is a barrier there.

And I want to put it this way, labor trafficking is less

understood, I think, by the system.

And I'll just be very general in saying the system.

And so it's a little more difficult to demonstrate where

labor trafficking has occurred, especially if there's no

ancillary case involving the client as a certified labor

trafficking victim or identified labor trafficking victim.

So it is a little bit bit tougher.

We gladly take those cases and want to take those cases.

And it's even a little more difficult if you're talking about

child labor trafficking because Florida doesn't require coercion,

so that's even more difficult to sometimes explain.

And sex trafficking, I think it's just easier for people

to get their heads around, but legally, there's no difference.

They're both entitled to the expansion of their records.

Okay.

Great.

Any other questions you'd like to highlight?

I did see questions about that were answered about if no

beds are available for children, what some of the responses

are there and any other questions?

Danica, would you like to address one of the questions to

your presentation?

Absolutely.

We received a question that asked what Proactive and prevention

services are occurring upstream to assist at risk, community

or dependency children.

That's a huge question.

But to take a small bite of that question, part of what is

being done is increased efforts for education.

There's a Florida mandated rule, the Child Trafficking Prevention

and Education rule that requires age appropriate trafficking

education for all students of Florida public schools.

So this is one of the first steps, really, in helping to

inform children who could be at risk about the dangers and

things to be aware of when it comes to sex trafficking in

particular. In addition to that, we've also seen greater

efforts and advocacy for training and education across professions.

So that includes law enforcement, health care workers, another

forward facing professions.

We've seen that they now have a mandated required allotment

of training hours that they need to complete specifically

about human trafficking.

And so while I recognize these efforts aren't necessarily

a cure all in helping and assisting in preventing, they are

a step forward.

Well, and then the other thing I think we have to realize

is that we live in a world where people are vulnerable, and

whenever there's vulnerability, there will be traffickers

trying to exploit people's vulnerabilities, period.

So if you are working to find shelter for people who are

homeless, job jobs for people who just lost their job because

of COVID, or when you're trying to find with any of us clear

an arrest record each one of those is a step toward the next

generation as well as the person being helped to not be trafficked

again. So the world of vulnerability is a place really that

creates a world for traffickers to be in rent.

I just asked you if you had any.

It looks like you did answer that question.

Now that I'm looking at it about C six survivors and the
criminal barriers there.

And everybody were just 1 minute over.

Let me, as usual, we blink.

Did it happened.

It was over.

Thank you all so much.

And I have to give a special thanks to Legal Services of

North Port.

Again.

I didn't say in particular.

You are a co sponsor.

You did help us get the CLI credit that I just mentioned.

Daniella Colleen Mullins in your shop.

And Leslie Pal Budra forever just great community partners.

We love you.

And we thank you so much.

Legal services.