

First of all, let me introduce you to dr.

Jasmine Armstrong.

She's worked for the Department of Juvenile Justice since 2017 and the office of research and data Integrity as a research analyst and she's worked on this issue of juveniles who commit sexually related offenses.

She currently serves as the human trafficking intervention coordinator for DJJ and prior to employment with DJJ.

Dr.

Armstrong studied societal differences in marginalized Youth and Young and False her research interests include social stratification race and gender studies intersectionality and higher education.

She has a PHD in Ms.

And sociology from FSU And a ba in sociology from the University of Florida.

And dr.

Armstrong.

I want to just make a note and say thank you so much.

We've actually had featured intersectionality and those discussions and prior third Friday trainings, and we look forward to your expertise here today I'd like to also introduce you to Catherine Gomez Catherine serves as the Director of Human Trafficking intervention for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. She has her ba from the University of Florida and an MA from the University of South Florida and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Central Florida.

Clearly, you are covering the basis of almost all the universities in our state.

She's served in Florida since 2006 as a juvenile probation.

One officer trainer researcher and administrator.

She special specializes scuse me in working with youth who've experienced human trafficking sexually marginalized Youth and youth who've committed sexually related offenses and high-profile multi-jurisdictional cases.

So everybody we've got an incredible panel with us today.

I want to thank them and I'm going to turn it over to them in a second.

I want you to know though a little bit about About stacking about BB cat first of all those of you who are in this area the Big Bend Coalition against human trafficking is our local coordinating entity really encourage you to take a moment BB and it's BBC aht Big Bend Coalition against human trafficking check us out on Facebook.

Look for further information there.

You can also go to the survive and thrive advocacy centers webpage and have Nation also about how you can be in touch with us in terms of Stack.

Let me just let you know what we are and what we do we work with survivors of human trafficking of all kinds that is both sex trafficking and labor trafficking survivors of all ages. We do case management those Direct Services and partnership with are many agencies and individuals in our area.

We are especially focused on Outreach now to rural Areas,

we live in the Big Bend of Florida.

For those of you who are not in our jurisdiction, which is the very Panhandle the north part of our state and there are many many Rural and highly agricultural areas around us. We do this work around public awareness.

And we also do agency and organizational specific training so know that we are here to assist and it looks like I have not put our address our website on here, which I usually do. I think I forgot not so it's survive and thrive advocacy dot-org so you can clearly find us easily on the web.

All right.

Awesome.

Thank you so much Robin and thank you stack and and everyone at BBK for having us today.

We're very happy to be here grateful to be here and love talking about this topic.

That's more important than anything.

So, thank you.

So yes, I am.

I'm Katherine Gomez.

I'm the director of human trafficking intervention for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, and yes, I went to three different.

Florida universities and I'm doing everything I can to avoid FSU. So sorry.

I had to throw that in there.

So I am I'm going to be speaking a bit today about about

human trafficking in general but specifically about commercial sexual exploitation of children just because that's that's the realm in which we work primarily with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

So also just wanted to put it out there.

So we are talking about human trafficking.

And this is this is trauma.

This is a traumatic experience.

This is a tough subject to talk about and especially if this could be your first time talking about these subjects or maybe your first time learning a little bit about human trafficking and what human trafficking actually looks like as opposed to what maybe you thought you knew about human trafficking or see about trafficking in the popular media.

It can be an upsetting event to learn a little bit about trafficking. So if you have experienced a traumatic event this course may bring up some of those uncomfortable feelings.

So if you need to step out for a moment, please feel free to do so at any time.

Please take care of yourself.

You have to take care of yourself first and foremost before you can take care of everyone else and we say the same thing to all of our Department of Juvenile Justice staff are wonderful probation officers Detention officers residential staff everyone that we work alongside.

Take care of yourself all day every day.

So also considering dr.

Armstrong and I neither of us.

Our neither of us are survivors of human trafficking.

We want to make sure that survivors voices are centered even if neither of us are survivors.

So this particular quote came from a Survivor and and she said My Story matters, but it does not define me and we want to keep that keep that in mind because so often with the the juveniles and the young people that we work with once they feel like they've been labeled.

Human trafficking victim they feel like that's the only label that they have and they're treated a particular way from that point forward.

And the only thing that people want to know about them is the terrible things that they've experienced and and they want to hear awful stories about about their time while they were being exploited and that's not something that we're trying to do.

That's not something that we want to do and that's not something that we think should happen anyone who has survived if I survived trafficking has survived a lot and they are so much more than that.

They are colleagues and friends and wonderful wonderful people.

So first and foremost, we're going to go through human trafficking 101 just so that if this is your first human trafficking class, you will get a solid foundation on what human trafficking is and isn't we'll talk a little bit about the Statewide

structure and how human trafficking is handled throughout the State of Florida.

So you have some idea of the 30,000 foot view along with what actually happens down on down at the ground level.

We'll talk a little bit about Juvenile Justice and the Child Welfare systems because that's where we work Department of Juvenile Justice.

So we'll give you a little insight into how these either process through our system and will also give you some more additional information and some resources.

So without further Ado.

I'm going to hand this off to my colleague friend and the other half of my brain doctor Jasmine Armstrong.

So let me hand it off to her.

One moment.

Thank you.

Aaron good afternoon everyone.

Thank you so much for attending this Workshop.

I am dr.

Jasmine.

I'm strong as my colleague Kathleen has introduced me and we will be going over a brief overview of human trafficking 101 and I am forgot to mention.

I am the human trafficking to mention coordinator for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

So let's begin.

So we're going to start off playing bride within a topic

of human trafficking and go over some federal definitions of human trafficking and as you'll see what as we go through these different Federal definitions, you'll see that they're kind of made up the same way.

They kind of flow the same and how they are defined but they are tailored specifically for sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

So the human trafficking a federal definition reads the recruitment harboring Transportation provision obtaining patronizing soliciting well advertising of a child for labor service or labor or Services through the use of force fraud or coercion under the federal law sex trafficking like prostitution and pornography does not require there to be any Force fraud or coercion if the victim is under the age of 18 Breaking it down to the labor trafficking Federal definition.

You'll see that it's pretty much set up the same way, but it's tailored to for a person obtaining a person for labor or Services through the use of force fraud or coercion for the purpose of substation to involuntary service to peonage debt bondage or slavery.

Looking at this from the sex trafficking lens, we find that again. This is tailored to a person for commercial sex act that is induced by force fraud or coercion or in which the person induced is under the age of 18.

Within the sex trafficking Under the Umbrella of sex shopping.

We have the commercial sexual exploitation of children or csec as we like to call it at Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. We love our acronyms.

So please you're going to see a lot of them and this presentation.

This is the sexual activity involving a child in exchange for something of value or the promise of something of value to the child or another person or persons this childish you as a sexual object and So within see said there can be some forms of violence and abuse against the child and at the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, this is mainly what we see what we find with our sex shocking cases Here's some examples of csat that we set we see and I want to highlight just a few when I highlight the pornography and this doesn't there's just doesn't include just the high-performance Hollywood pornography but also the amateur pornography and we find that specially and I'm going to highlight another one to enter internet-based exploitation.

We find as this technology is expanding and becoming more and more of a sure thing for a lot of We find that pornography has transitioned into the online space and the internet exportation is very common.

Now.

I also want to highlight the interfamilial exploitation or some of us like to call it parental export export citations mental trafficking.

This is a big Trend in Florida right now where we find a lot of our cases that week that we see at the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice have some form of Parental at trafficking or into familiar exploitation.

Related to sex trafficking we may see we may find that a

lot of people just assume that trafficking is an international crime, which is we do see a lot of cases that involve International people however for us at the full Department of Juvenile Justice a lot of the youth that come through us, I'll system that we find that are involved in trafficking are considered domestic minor sex trafficking and this is Under the Umbrella of sesac.

And this is basically a minor or person that is traffic within the United States within the State of Florida within their County within there are within their circuit.

So when I was trafficked locally rather than internationally across count country lines, and here is some examples of ddms tidak minor domestic minor sex trafficking and you'll find actually one of these involves courage for trafficking or enter a familiar trafficking actually two of them a father trading sex with his underage daughter for drugs and also a mother allowing her landlord to have sex with her child as wet pavement again, these are some examples loose examples, but we do find that we have these cases of different units that come to That may be involved in trafficking.

So to bring it to a visual standpoint, we have this this graph here that has human trafficking as the brig umbrella term under there.

You have sex trafficking and labor trafficking with insects shocking. You have the commercial sexual sexual trafficking of adults and then the commercial sexual exploitation of children or defect.

This is what we deal with and undersea staff.

You have domestic minor sex trafficking or D MST.

Now within human trafficking we is a is a flow of process that happens a relationship.

If you will that is being built within the trafficking situation and for us stack has talked a lot about this.

So we'll just highlight this for for just this minions, but there's a process means and an end and within their the process you have recruitment within the means you see the force fraud or coercion that is taking place and the end is them being traffic then Involved a commercial sexual work or then being with the Bob do labor trafficking or also involuntary service.

Now within the conversation of human trafficking a lot of you may have questions about whether there's a difference between human trafficking and human smuggling and there is actually a big difference related to human smuggling is more.

So a crime against borders meaning a crime against the United States borders state borders County border City borders international waters. If you will for as trafficking is more on the individual level of relationship that's being that's being that that takes I am an exchange in that relationship.

We find that trafficking does not really have to include smuggling. However, smuggling can include some trafficking example that we like to give is someone who wants to be smuggled into the United States.

They may pay someone some money to get them into the United States. And once that person helps them across the u.s.

Borders, then that person turns to them who helped smuggle them into the United States will say, okay I've got I've got me here now.

Now you have to do something for me.

I've paid your way through I giving you food shelter.

Now, you need to actually provide the certain labor or do the sexual act in order to pay me back and I will decide when your debt is paid.

So that is where we find the trafficking is taking place and trafficking does not require physical Force abuse or restraint. However, we do find a lot of traffic could use psychological manipulation and or abused to control their victims and we find that this Actually more deadly Than Physical Force. So with and trafficking we also see many people ask, you know, when we come across there and traffickers they consider themselves as businessmen and women business people.

It's a business at the end of the day.

It's all about the bottom line the dollar but how much could we estimate trafficking is so this is from the International Labour office.

This is estimated number of a hundred fifty billion dollars per year.

And this is estimated because even though we start Come more web traffic is still a very much an unknown underground resource and and action that's taken place.

So all we really can see is an estimate.

And in my opinion.

This is a very high number estimation in my opinion because not only is it taking place with the United States, but it's a global issue or social issue that we are just beginning to hit the service on. So with the idea of this being a very lucrative business the main reason the main I reason behind this is that victims are seen as a reinvestment.

So unlike drugs or guns trafficking human traffickers can continue to exploit their victims at the initial point of the sale.

This can be seen as someone that is trying to traffic someone else in the commercial sexual industry a person could come to traffic their victim with one.

And that night after let's say a short period time.

That's they're done that's over that sale is complete.

However, the victim can be brought back to their trafficker.

Therefore the trafficker can have ultimate means to traffic them again.

And we've had many youth that come through our system that are involved in trafficking say that they have been trafficked most of the times and one night in one context and one setting so definitely this idea that the victim is seen as a reinvestment is definitely a lure for a lot of people that want to be involved in trafficking a lava trapattoni's find a way to make it happen.

So here is a national map of the United States and I believe this is one of the most updated ones 3019 and this is from the Polaris project with it, which is an organization who

has their own human trafficking hotline National hotline as well as keep they keep different statistics and numbers on human trafficking within the United States and possibly even globally so you'll see and in the map.

Oh my God.

Where is Florida it is Much heavily populated with activity and this is fun reports that are made to the National human trafficking hotline through the Polaris project and you'll see that Florida is one of the one of the main states that is very much a report heavily reported a trafficking activity.

So on this lines where does Florida rank nationally in the number of calls placed in the National human trafficking hotline? So actually Florida ranks number three.

Yes.

What number three everyone also?

We I knew we could do it.

This is such a proud moment for everyone all these Floridians here. We are ranked number three number three third nationally in the number of calls placed to the National human trafficking hotline and some of you may wonder wow.

We're number three and how is that possible and oh my gosh, what are the states are above us?

Well, let me answer those.

You questions right now real quick.

We are number three and number two is California.

And number one is Texas and fun fact for every one.

We normally usually stay within the top third stage.

The last few years of numbers may have caused made to the National human trafficking hotline.

We do Florida does Texas and California, but we tend to shift in the numbers May depending on the ear.

So but it's definitely for this year 2019 1890 I mean it is Texas, California and Florida and some of the reasons why Florida is ranked number 3 is due to us not being also a big state and itself a touristy State and itself, but that will one of the few Coastal states in the United States meaning that we are on the coastline.

We are on the border of the United States.

We have some of the larger main touristy cities like Miami Orlando Tampa.

We have a lot of main international airports as well.

Is upwards with in just this Naval support seaports.

So we're ranked number.

Third number three.

Now moving towards some legislator that had that went into implementation within Florida.

We find that our Florida statutes definition of human trafficking and with us.

We actually passed several laws where individuals under 18 cannot sent not consent to commercial sex sex.

And this is very instrumental in us being one.

The main states policy wise that is one of the bigger states that has different policies related to human trafficking.

That's definitely not not really singing in other states.

Also that buyers of individuals under the age 18 may be charged as human trafficking trap human traffickers and that human trafficking may be prosecuted as an organized crime again, really big legislation here in Florida.

Moving on to the safe harbor act which ensures the safety of victims under the age of 18 who have been trafficked for sex and allows sexual exploits to exploit children to be placed to get help from the Child Welfare professionals instead of being placed in the juvenile delinquency system with this set Safe Harbor at it actually initiated more collaboration and partnership between the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and the Florida Department of Children and Families. We work closely with them.

Tapping myself do without Connor counterparts at that State organization and from our collaboration with not just that this state agency, but also other state agencies across Florida.

We've made some really big strides in our fight against human trafficking. Again, some key points again individuals cannot be charged with prostitution who are under the age of 18 a really big legislation on our end that they're treated as victims first rather than perpetrators or criminals would definitely definitely want to make sure to keep them keep them centered keep the victim centers because then going back to the survivors.

They can show that we're trauma-informed and provides the certain care and attention that they need.

So moving away from just what is human trafficking in general.

We're going to be talking about certain risk factors and indicators of human trafficking So within the social services, we provide an important role in identifying victims of human trafficking and this can be where trafficking is a social hitting problem.

But us as social service providers and workers we provide we are instrumental in helping identify.

Five certain victims that come through our system.

One of the big risk factors that we found Catherine of myself working for the fourth floor Department of Juvenile Justice.

Is that a lot of children that come through our system may be abused and abused children are at a higher risk of being runaways and homeless because they tend to want to get away from their environment and find safety elsewhere.

So with them being on the run or with them being homeless there at more risk of being trafficked because tractors tent Target youth shelters good cold homeless youth service service providers as well as schools and academic centers because they're trying to get reach these kids that need that have little to no social support and need resources to help make it in life and Thrive and survive.

So they put it intentionally.

These kids are very vulnerable to be trafficked.

Also children with prior sexual abuse or sexual exploitation.

They may find that when they're being exported.

It may seem normal to them because of their previous sexual abuse history and it's a way for them to gain some power

control and during the exploitation, but however, they are still kids children and they are still being exploited.

So we definitely keep that in mind whenever we come across kids with prior sexual offender sexual abuse history.

Again, going back to you highlighting The Runaway and then being homeless run away status is definitely an important factor and Main risk factor for you that could be involved in trafficking.

And again, they have little to no social support.

They have little to no resources to help them make it in life. So they're very dependent upon the explorative adults whenever they do come across them.

And in 2017 a study by the national Center for missing and exploited children found that one in every seven in danger runaways or would likely to be sex trafficked check trafficking victims and of those 80 percent of these children were in the care of some social service or Foster cares of service provider. So again, we are very instrumental in identifying victims of human trafficking and that our job really does matter and This is important thing to highlight one in three teens will be included by chapter within 48 Hours of leaving home and or becoming homeless again, very important for us to keep in mind whenever we want to possibly identify someone being involved in trafficking.

So shifting to the gender demographics a lot of people assume that with whoever is being trafficked, it's more women and children, but actually there is a huge huge population of

men and boys that are being trafficked within the United States globally if you will and they are at a potential risk of for commercial sexual exploitation as well as labor trafficking and they start they could begin being involved in commercial sex. Your industry as early as age 11 to 13.

We find that the same risk factors are the same for men and boys as they are for women and women and girls, but we do find that men and boys to exploit a lot of substitutes or in order to help cope with the exportation.

And the main the main reason for being involved in trafficking is to beat the basic survival needs of food shelter water.

We tend to call this in our line of work.

Survival sex but it's basically just meaning the necessary needs. So here's some common indicators of that someone that may be involved in human trafficking and these are just some red flags that everyone should keep in mind if they show evidence of any physical sexual and emotional abuse.

This one is particularly important to highlight if they cannot or will not speak on their behalf, or they may not be fluent in the dominant language in certain areas across Florida English is not really the dominant language typically in like southern part.

Southern Florida, it may be Spanish and maybe Haitian Creole it again.

It may be English as well.

So if you find that as you're talking to a youth and you find that they're not really understanding you a comprehension

comprehending what you're saying and it could be a language barrier there.

So that could be something to keep in mind in the back of your head that they could be some exploitation involved and they also can don't want to speak to you alone.

And we find this is particularly interesting for us, which is we work.

And Juvenile Justice kids that come through our system look at us as we working for Department Corrections or just any criminal justice of Person of authority.

So there are more shy or more reserved and talking with us, but I'll suggested is just to try to have them open up doing what you can.

Within the identification if they do not have proper identification on them.

The rule of thumb is if they have no idea plication, they do not have enough identification or they have too much identification if these could be red flags for you to like just go further and figure out if there could be some exploitation going on. This is more common for those that were involved in labor trafficking also if they work long hours if Live in the same place that they work again.

This could not be labor trafficking but it's also a could be a concern for you as you're getting as you're talking with the youth observing them.

This is particularly for those that are involved in labor trafficking did if they look missing large gaps and schooling

again. They live in the same place.

They work there's a heightened sense of fear distrust for authority. And also a Telltale sign they could be engaged in prostitution or commercial sexual acts.

This is more so for domestic service to or involuntary servitude, they cannot leave the place of residence.

They usually live in the same places.

They work they are not provided with adequate amounts of food or water and they're subjected to a lot of abuse because again, they're they're tracked within that residence.

They cannot leave that measure so we find a lot of Youth that have been involved in domestic service to they've been exposed to a lot of different.

use physical threats insults in violence related to the child labor laws in Florida.

I just want to highlight a few of the youth that are aged 14 and 15 are allowed to work and they are only allowed to work up to 15 hours a week.

They're supervised at all times.

And so if you find that as you're talking with a child and they're saying oh I have a job and I'm only 12.

Oh, no, that that cannot be so definitely a pro further ask follow-up questions and actually see if you Maybe ask more about their line of work.

And also we find this is a big thing here in Florida traveling sales Crews youth are prevented from going working door-to-door sales. So if you find that a youth is coming to your door

selling anything of any kind that is definitely restricted for them mainly because of their safety of them going into their usually bus from different neighborhoods outside their community and We don't know what is on the other side of that door that they're knocking on.

So this is more.

So for their safety of just making sure that they're being taken care of and sewed ourselves are prohibited for you.

Highlighting the different forms of trafficking we find that people Cooter's are you are very instrumental in the business of human trafficking appear Cooter is individual appointed by the trafficker to supervise other victims and Report rule violations that we find that the period creators are the same but the same gender as the victims and they'll usually referred to as bottom bottom people the main people the side the side people.

The right pan to the trafficker these people they could Cooter's of the instruct the victims that can let the mind they booked the rooms.

They post the eyes.

Sometimes they even inflict punishment on the on the victims and this is mainly for the track workers to keep control over their victims, even the people coolers.

So we find that we try to work alongside the period Cooter but we do find that they tend to take the fall for the trafficker and possibly End up being prosecuted along with their traffickers, but in the end the pre recruiter is always the victim because

they were they were first the victim usually the first victim
of the trafficker.

So we try our best to provide the pewter which services and
try to intervene on their behalf.

So related moving away from the people, who do we have social
media? And these are just some different websites or applications
that we found that are hot spots for trafficking activity
back page is no more but we do find that since Backpage has
been disabled traffickers have become a lot more well-versed
on other applications to recruit young people on so this
is just a list of applications.

And websites to keep in mind that one.

Related to social media.

There was a big study that was done that looked at how emojis
are possible and two indicators of trafficking.

There are some examples of some you have two rows the dollar
sign the hundred a hundred points the change cherry blossom
to indicate a youth because wife say it why we say the word
we can just use an emoji.

So this is another way that traffickers have been using technology
or to titty to recoup.

exploit their victims So now I'm going to turn it back over
to my colleague Kathleen Gomez to continue on with this presentation.

Thank you.

Alright, awesome.

Thank you.

Mr.

Armstrong.

I really appreciate that that took us through all of the all the basics everything.

We need to know so that we can all go out there and go go buy some trafficking so good before you do before you do before you do that.

Let's talk a little bit about what we're doing in Florida.

So we've talked about what human trafficking gets a little bit about human trafficking isn't a little bit about Some stuff to look out for maybe some details about Labor trafficking domestic servitude some common common ways that kids can be recruited into it with our peer recruiters.

Who are they and at the end of the day the key of all of this is that the kids who are involved in trafficking the kids are involved in exploitation are victims.

They are victims.

This is not this is not commercial sex work.

This is not this is not voluntary anybody I could the age of 18 who is involved.

Evolved in any kind of trade of an item of value or the promise of an item of value for some kind of sexual behavior that child is a victim of child abuse.

So so now we talked a little bit about what it all is now.

Let's talk about what is Florida doing and what's how does Florida have this laid out?

So just to give you the 30,000 foot view, there's three levels of intervention in Florida for human trafficking.

So there's a Statewide Council on human trafficking.

That's led by the Attorney General.

General and includes leadership from various State agencies as well as representation from the legislature in Florida.

And and this Statewide Council guides guides policy guides intervention. It serves as a framework to help lead the state into the future for what we're going to do for human trafficking intervention and prevention and for human trafficking investigations on the law enforcement side, then at the very local at the local level, there are human trafficking task forces And those human trafficking task force has like BB cat that Robin mentioned at the very beginning.

So ours ours in the Tallahassee area is the Big Bang Coalition against human trafficking but there are human trafficking task forces in every every circuit across the state.

Some of them might be called a coalition.

Some of them might be called the task force, but they are present everywhere and there's a list of them on the Office of the Attorney General's website.

If you'd like to look them up and try to find out well, how do I get plugged into a local task force near me the most task forces have a service provider component and a law enforcement component. So the law enforcement component is usually made up of the local sheriff's office and other local police departments as well as any state and federal law enforcement agencies in that area that all work cooperatively and collaborated collaboratively to to prosecute human trafficking related

offenses. And then the other part of the task force is the service providers other agencies.

Anybody who's Involved in any aspect of human trafficking intervention or prevention that isn't necessarily specifically involved in the investigation of the offenses.

And then at the very individual level just all the way down at the level of the individual victim that individual case the Florida Department of Children and Families for survey items who are children the Florida Department of Children and Families leads individual multidisciplinary team meetings, and these meetings are not open to the public.

These are private.

Ratings for that where the team working with that child who's a victim of exploitation and they plan out what type of services are needed for this youth.

How can can they be safely maintained at home?

Do they need to be placed in some other kind of care setting at that point, but what exactly do we need to do?

So so the Statewide Council guides policy throughout the State of Florida the human trafficking task force has About what's going on with trafficking or local area?

And then at the very individual level we have multidisciplinary Team meetings and Staffing's to follow up with individual cases and figure out what services they need.

So for the Juvenile Justice and child welfare systems, which I split those two up because Juvenile Justice is the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice child welfare is the Florida

Department of Children and Families.

We used to all be together as one great big state agency called HRS way back in the day, but we've been splits and about 1994 and so Juvenile Justice and juvenile delinquency is handled through the Department of Juvenile Justice and child welfare is handled through Department of Children and Families and just to give you a broad overview of DJJ.

We have four major components aside from like Administration and billing and that sort of thing.

We have Prevention Services, which is a massive network of contracts for all kinds of different services in the local area to try and keep kids from getting involved in the Juvenile Justice System.

At all and also Under the Umbrella Prevention Services are local civil citation programs.

And every area in the State of Florida has some kind of a civil citation program so that a local law enforcement officer can attempt to work with the youth right then and there on the street in the neighborhood and not not bring that kid into the Juvenile Justice System.

We also have detention Services if there are kids who are taken into custody who need to be detained for very short periods of time sometimes as little as a day sometimes a couple of weeks at a time, but therefore very short term settings. We have a massive branch of the organization for that's probation and Community intervention.

And this is where this is my background I came I came through

the branch of probation Community intervention as a probation officer and a senior probation officer and data trainer back home in circuit six.

So shout out to anybody on the on the training that's from circuit six and Link for Pinellas County and in probation and Community intervention.

There's a piece of That's the branch of the agency.

That doesn't just have a court order and say all right Johnny have you done with the judge has ordered you to do their meeting with the youth are administering risk assessment instruments, they're talking about what the needs are for that youth and for the family and they're developing disposition recommendations or sentencing recommendations for the court to talk about what kind of services division does this youth need how intensive supervision does this youth need and then after that After disposition happens then that probation officer follows up with the youth from that point on and helps them get through whatever it is.

They need to make it through and then finally there's residential services that is the branch of the agency where if you need to go into a residential commitment program and they need to stay there for a period of time sometimes as short as a month or two.

Sometimes as long as several months residential commitment programs are places where kids can go and receive A very intensive long-term Treatment Services mental health services, and then when they come out at the end of it, they come typically

come back into the community under some kind of probation supervision so that we can make sure that they're linked up with whatever kind of services they need when they come home. So that's the the four main parts of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and whoops.

I went backwards my bad.

Hold on.

Let me Zoom it back out and come back to the next slide.

There we go.

So the entire Florida Department of Juvenile Justice is designed to increase and decrease the severity of sanctions based on what that youth needs.

What are the risks what are their needs all of our all of our systems are based on the risk needs responsivity model.

So if a youth has lower risk to reoffend and they don't have very many needs we're not going to recommend very intensive services for that youth.

But if that youths risk to reoffend is increasing over time and They're their behaviors decompensating.

The risk is increasing.

Maybe there are more and more involved with the Juvenile Justice System.

Then we step up the different types of supervision that are needed and then as that Youth Level starts that use risk level starts to come back down.

Then we step that youth back down through the levels of supervision that that youth might need so that when that youth is released

at the end of the day, we we transition them out of supervision
at the end of the day, but every single step in the Heart
rate of Juvenile Justice process everything else every single
step in the Juvenile Justice process in general in Florida
is designed to stop that youth in their tracks right where
they are and prevent them from going any deeper in the system.

We have a comprehensive policy within Florida.

JJ's called policy number 1925 which you know, I'm sure folks
don't really care about policy numbers, but we like them
very much because we work with state agency but this particular
policy mandates that every person that comes on board.

To come and work with our Department of Juvenile Justice
has to have an initial human trafficking training that's
completed as part of their initial phase one type of training
before they can go and start working with youth and we have
one particular type of training for her probation officers
another type of training for Detention officers.

And that type of training is something that everyone has
to do and they have to do it every year but then any of the
juvenile probation officers because the juvenile probation
officers are going to be working.

Those kids much more intensely in over quite a long period
of time all juvenile probation officers have to complete
an advanced human trafficking training course and learn how
to administer the human trafficking screening tool that I'll
talk about in a second, but they have to know how to administer
a human trafficking screening tool to any youth that comes

across their caseload.

So every probation officer in the state has to have that training and they have to have it every year so that they make sure that they get good Refreshers.

On any details on working with trafficking trafficking victims and then we also have very stringent rules were mandatory reporters just like so many other professionals are we have reporting rules for when to call the Florida child abuse hotline and and the bottom line is if you think that this kid might be trafficked call the darn hot line Scarlet.

We work collaboratively with the Florida Department of Children and Families so that if we screening Youth and identify that they Very well be a human trafficking victim we can pass that off directly to the child abuse investigator Child Protection investigator. Depending on where you are in stay is what they're called and they can pick it up and start investigating and and determine whether or not that youth is a human trafficking victim. So we complete human trafficking screening tools.

We store them in our in our DJ electronic case management system. We have a network of human trafficking Liaisons.

I see a few of them and the attendance list today.

So that's fantastic.

It's great to see our team on there.

We have a network of human trafficking Liaisons embedded in every Judicial Circuit of the state at least one and most areas of two or three and these particular Liaisons are usually probation officers senior probation officers, maybe probation

leadership and they know a bit more about human trafficking and a bit more about case management for some of these bigger cases where where kids are may be moving from Is to place maybe they're involved with the foster care system.

Maybe they maybe they have more intense needs than some other kids might need and so they know these cases a little bit better and that also part of our policy.

It requires requires our staff to report any kind of trafficking recruitment efforts.

So we know that we know that unfortunately young people who are victimized in trafficking and who are exploited.

Do sometimes go and invite other kids to join them and invite other people to be part of this trafficking as well and say hey come work with me.

Come do this or hey, you know, you can make some quick money this way or or hey, my boyfriend is my boyfriend takes good care of me.

Maybe you can, you know, come work with me to something like that. So we require our staff to report those kinds of recruitment efforts so that we can try and keep an eye on weather.

A victim is continuing their victimization by by turning around and potentially exploiting any other people and so I mentioned a minute ago the human trafficking screening tool and this is not a human trafficking screening tool training.

We're not going to teach everybody how to administer the HD SD.

This is a this is a tool just to tell you a little bit about

it and bring you up to speed on it.

So it was developed in 2014, and it was a jointly developed tool from the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Has in the department of children and families and House Bill 71 41 required us to develop this and and for these two state agencies to use some kind of a joint tool to identify kids who might be trafficking victims who have certain risk factors. It's designed to be used throughout Florida all 67 counties in Florida 20 do digital circuits.

Everyone uses the everyone in Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Children and Families uses the same human trafficking screening.

And one of the reasons why we use the same tool is so that we can minimize the likelihood of that youth being subjected to multiple screenings by multiple agencies.

So if a if a juvenile Assessment Center screener, like one of our staff a DJ Assessment Center screener at three o'clock in the morning screams a youth that's presented in front of her as part of an arrest and they conduct a in-depth interview with that youth and ascertain that this youth may very well.

Be a victim of human trafficking but they're not sure but they think maybe and they make a call to the Florida child abuse hotline which in case anybody doesn't know what it is. When 896 abuse the Florida child abuse hotline if they make that call the child abuse hotline will assign a child protection investigator to that youth and we'll get a copy of that human trafficking screening tool so they can use

that as their jumping off point.

They have some information from us.

Ready?

It's in a format that they understand because they use the same tool and they can go and they can do that child abuse investigation and figure and and start, you know, you don't have to start from scratch.

So DJ uses it DCF uses at some of the service providers that are contracted by DJ also uses the HTS D and we use it to better identify victims and form our service development inform our treatment recommendations and quite frankly enhanced data collection.

Because just like anything else that's out there.

If you don't know how many kids you have or you don't know what the risk factors are if you don't measure it, you can't manage it and if you don't measure it, you don't collect data, you can't study it and if you can study it then you'll never be able to to improve your delivery of services.

So we collect a lot of data on human trafficking victims both from the human trafficking screening tool as well as other data collection efforts from DJJ in general.

So we piloted in 2014.

We tried it out and brow it Miami and Orlando we found we really needed a screening tool because only six percent of the kids would tell us that they were human trafficking victim.

So we had to figure out another way to get them to talk to us and to figure out well, maybe you're not going to answer

the question.

Are you a human trafficking victim?

Yes or no?

Maybe they're not going to answer that question.

Or maybe they're going to say no, of course not but if you ask them some questions that have that have more to do with what human trafficking is and what it looks like.

We might be able to get them to talk a little bit more about their exploitation and their victimization.

So the final hgst was implemented in 2015 across Florida and it has a few major sections, you know instructions triggers.

Like why would you maybe need to do with your tracking screening tool in this kid?

We cover the Quran info demographic info personal background living conditions work information leaving a running away and you kind of sexual exploitation parent/guardian information.

We do a parent Guardian interview as well.

And then we have some post screening assessment questions where the person who did the interview stops and looks back for their information and records and makes a few mix a few judgments on whether they think that that youth might be a trafficking victim or not.

It covers both commercial sexual exploitation.

Education of children so sesac, it covers both sesac and labor trafficking.

It's designed to be used for both male and female use and it's done through a structured interview.

So a guided interview between the screener and that child and it's also designed to gather some collateral information.

So there's a parent Guardian interview along with it.

There's some secondary information that can be gathered from other records sources as part of that conversation, but that's that's all that goes into.

The human trafficking screening tool if anyone has if anyone has more questions about the human trafficking screening tool in general, please feel free.

Our contact info will be at the very end of this.

Please.

Feel free to give us a call and we'll be happy to talk to you about it.

So one of the other things that we we wanted to make sure we talked about along with the human trafficking screening tool is wanted to make sure we talked about adverse childhood experiences. So one of the things like we talked about like if you don't collect a do you're not ever going to be able to study it and you can't you can't do any kind of research on who are the kids that are being exploited in your area.

So if anyone hasn't heard of Aces adverse childhood experiences the short history on Aces is there's a it was a huge study done by Kaiser Permanente and I don't remember the year now, of course because I'm doing a presentation and so of course the year went on my plane 95.

Thanks Jasmine 1995.

So it was a study done that evaluated some some Early Childhood

experiences that at that people experienced and then the impacts of those experiences had when on their health when they were adults, so what they found was that out of these particular kinds of experiences that they had whether it was emotional abuse physical abuse sexual abuse neglect household violence parental separation or divorce.

Those are all the different cases that are out there those different kinds of adverse childhood experiences.

So so they found that the more adverse childhood experiences people had the less healthy that they were as adults and that particular Ace research has been exported to all different kinds of other social service type agencies in the world.

So we particularly use it when we're talking about commercial sexual exploitation.

So this particular graph.

This is a pretty neat study from 2015 that was done on a sample of DJ involved Youth and so they looked at well, how many aces did these children have?

What about the kids who had experienced sex trafficking in the past or the kids who had an experience sex trafficking in the past?

So for the kids who had experienced sex trafficking on average they reported a greater number of Aces.

So they had more adverse childhood experiences.

They had more more things that had gone wrong in their in their earlier life than the kids who Been sex trafficked.

So if you look at the the curve on it the Juvenile Justice

kids who had not been sexually trafficked they had some basis as well.

But but they had fewer of them than the kids who had experienced that have experienced trafficking.

So along with it we said, okay.

Well, so if the kids have been trafficked have more aces.

All right, what kinds of cases do they have?

And so this particular study looked at?

Well, what kinds of vases did these kids have out of the kids who had experienced sexual exploitation and the kids who hadn't experienced sexual exploitation.

And so we took a look at it more and we're like, well the the blue columns here are the kids who had experienced sex trafficking we said well, Jeez, it looks like the kids who had experienced sex trafficking have experienced more of every single one of these adverse childhood experiences more emotional abuse more physical abuse more sexual abuse more emotional neglect more physical neglect more household violence household substance abuse household mental illness household parental separation or divorce and household member incarceration.

Those are all the different kinds of bases that are out there and the kids who had experienced trafficking and more of them than any of the kids who had never experienced ravaging.

So with that being said, okay, so great.

We collect data what about it?

So as far as the human trafficking screening tool statistics that we have and we kept off the numbers for this particular

presentation at the end of fiscal year 2018 and 2019 just to be sure we had a nice clean fiscal year cut off because the State of Florida runs a fiscal year that goes from July 1st to June.

So we had completed at the end of June 2019.

We had completed 16000 33 human trafficking screening tools.

And so those were done by our probation officers.

Those were done by our juvenile assessment center staff or are on call screening staff or anybody running in take cases 16,000 human trafficking screening tools from 2015 to 2019 and that correlated to 8570.

Kids because sometimes kids get more than one human trafficking screening tool depending on what their risk factors are or if maybe they didn't have a risk factor before but now they do or maybe they had some risk factors, but now they have more risk factors.

So 8570 individual kids have been screened feeling a little roughly 50/50 about 54 percent female 45 percent male And from that human trafficking screening tool we've made seven thousand five hundred and seventy calls to the Florida child abuse hotline and asked them to investigate possible possible abuse. Now not every single one of those calls have been made for for human trafficking.

Some of those calls are made because maybe the child disclosed some other kind of sexual abuse or some other kind of neglect or some other kind of some other kind of abuse that the Florida child abuse hotline would need to know about But we've made

7500 30 calls and about half of them are that half of them are accepted.

Sometimes we don't have enough information.

So when the when the child abuse hotline is answering the phone and they're trying to ask us for those details that they need to find out if they can open a possible abuse investigation for that child.

Sometimes we don't have quite enough for what they need, but sometimes they'll dock.

At the call and say all right.

Well, we were not able to take that call and open an investigation.

We don't quite have enough information to open an investigation but will document that so that if another call comes in with other information and other details, we can definitely add that information to any other these calls that come in.

So what does this look like like who are these kids?

So so we ran some other numbers we we use a different kind of time period .

And we said, okay.

Well, what about What about these other saying what about aerys and state?

How does this all break down?

What about race ethnicity?

What about males?

What about females?

How does this whole thing break down?

So the forgive me on this there's a typo at the end of there's

a typo for the individual youth individual youth number is
is wrong and I typed that wrong that's on me, but there were
four thousand eight hundred eighty three males 5560 seven
females so rough Only half and half and if you're wondering
gosh, that seems really high.

Why are we doing so many human trafficking screening tools
on young men and boys.

Well number one because young men and boys are also trafficked
are trafficked for labor exploitation there traffic for sexual
exploitation. They are absolutely also trafficked but also
because occasionally youth who have experienced exploitation.

They might come in the front door of the juvenile justice
system with some kind of a sex charge or some kind of a sex

And and so one of the other things we do is just scream kids
who come in the front door the Juvenile Justice System who
have come in with some kind of a sex offense because sometimes
when we dig a little bit deeper into the nature of that sex
offense or what that use history could be there could very
well be some exploitation at the at the end of that.

So they're about 44% young black youth about 44 percent white
youth about 12 percent Hispanic youth and just under 1% of
other other racial ethnic breakdowns for youth in the North
Region. And this is all human trafficking screening tool
statistics. So this is this is information coming from the
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

This is not from the Florida Department of Children and Families
after they've gone through and investigated these cases and

made the final determinations on whether these kids.

Have been verified as trafficking victims or not.

But in the different judicial circuits in the north region

of the state judicial circuit one judicial circuit to to

is where Tallahassee is three is more like Lake City area

for Jacksonville, five like Marion County Ocala area seven

more Volusia.

You can see the map.

Eighth has more the Gainesville area and 14 is Panama City.

So these are the breakdowns for how many screenings Have

been done in the north part of the state.

So when we first put this together we said well, this is

for the Big Bend Coalition will just do the North Region.

But then we say we'll wait a minute.

We're partnering with USF and this is going to be a webinar

that's available many different places.

So let's do some more so for the central region of the state

circuits 6 9 10 12 13 and 18.

These are all the numbers of human trafficking screening

tool screenings that have been done and that particular area

of the state circuit six.

Does does the most followed very closely by Circuit 13 so

circuit six is Pinellas Pasco circuit 13 is Tampa area circuit

995 not quite as many but but this particular area of the

state generates a fair number of calls in Florida human trafficking

hotline. I'm sorry the Florida child abuse hotline as well

as the national human trafficking hotline if that youth is

over 18 and can sense for us to make a call to the hotline on their behalf.

So and then for the South Region will throw in the South Region circuit 11 is Miami 15 Palm Beach 16 the keys 17 Broward area 19 is like st.

Lucie area and circuit 20 is the Fort Myers area.

So these are the different screenings that are done in the southern portion of the state.

So so we look at that and we say Okay, so So what does this all mean?

So what about the kids?

Okay.

So the kids who have been screened the kids who have had a human traffic a screening tool.

What are they gone through with their history?

What's what's their deal?

And for those kids or kids have been screened and have received a human trafficking screening tool those kids have experienced a lot of abuse.

There's a lot of neglect 27 percent of them reported experiencing neglect in our history 38% And reported experiencing violence or physical abuse half of them just about half of them 49 percent reported sexual abuse and 2/3 almost exactly 2/3 reported a history of victimization and three-quarters of them just about reported that they had witnessed violence in their in their life.

For running away and kicked out history.

So you can I'm sure you can read this chart but for running away frequency about 27% of the kids reported that they didn't run away at all.

They didn't have a history of running away nine percent of them reported.

They ran away maybe once 12 percent reported two or three times fourteen percent reported, they'd run away four to five times, but 38% 38 percent of the kids who were screened with the human trafficking screening.

How to run away history of more than five times and that goes back to what dr.

Armstrong was talking about earlier where she talked about kids who have been kicked out or who run away or been thrown away. Like if you have like kids who maybe can't can't come home for one reason or another those kids are very vulnerable to exploitation of all sorts.

When we talk about out-of-home placements by courts or DCF, so this could be kids who had to be removed from their home for one reason or another or no out of home placements from the kids who were screened for hgst.

There were 64 percent that didn't report any out-of-home placements exceeding 30 days.

So there can be plenty of out of home placements that are only for a very short period of time but we put a cut off on that exceeding 30 days twenty percent of them reported.

I had been placed out of home for a longer period of time once 7% talked about to out-of-home placements and 9% talked

about three or more.

So so that's just a really quick snapshot of like who are these kids?

Who are these kids?

What are some common some common issues that they have some common history that they that they record there's much more of that information.

There's much more where that comes from just because we administer so many types of Assessments and screening tools for for the kids that come through the Department of Juvenile Justice System. So so we talked about our human Liaisons a little bit. We have a whole branch of them at least 22 and I think we just added another put another couple they track the trafficking cases and their local area.

They keep the DJ system stakeholders aware of any DCF abuse investigations or if maybe a probation officer isn't aware of what an outcome was or if a youth was investigated for for trafficking the human trafficking liaison probably knows what the outcome of that abuse investigation was.

They review the correct any errors in the human trafficking screening tools that are completed Statewide and we send out information to them every single month so that they can double check and correct the HTS does every single month before a mistake just stays in the system.

We like to have really clean data.

They participate in any of those local multidisciplinary team staff things that are happening and they participate

in the local human trafficking task forces and coalition's so if you think back again to that that diagram On the different parts of the state.

There's the multidisciplinary team Staffing's for individual kids. They're the local task forces for for human trafficking intervention in their local area of the state and and then dr. Armstrong and I typically participate in the in the Statewide Council on human trafficking along with secretary marsteller and keep the rest of the HT liaison team apprised so forth additional information and resources because I do want to make sure that we save some time for for questions and other information that could be useful the robin mentioned at the very beginning the Big Bend Coalition against human trafficking is the local human trafficking task force for the Big Bend area of Florida survive and thrive Advocacy Center is a huge partner the Big Bend Coalition against human trafficking and their the co-sponsored was training today the Office of the Attorney General has Good information on their website about human trafficking and can help point you towards finding your local task force to get involved in your area.

And I keep saying your local task force in your local area because there are many different organizations out there that would really like to do good work and help human trafficking victims across the state and there are so many of them and there are so many that come up all the time.

But sometimes it could be a little bit like herding cats to make sure that we all stay focused on the same kind of

goals working in the same direction and that we all work together and if there are new organizations that come about that want to get involved in the human trafficking fight. We're happy to welcome them in we're happy for them to be a part of the larger coalition's let's let's bring you in welcome you in and then we can all keep working in the same direction. The Department of Homeland Security has a blue campaign because the Department of Homeland Security focuses more on some of the more Federal trafficking But they have excellent awareness information on their blue campaign on their website Polaris project runs the human trafficking hotline, they publish a ton of human trafficking data. So if you'd like to know about different kinds of trafficking in your area or calls to the hotline Polaris is an excellent resource Shared Hope International also publishes some incredible information on On human trafficking and specifically on sex trafficking and sex trafficking of children and the Department of Health and Human Services publishes plenty of good information from a federal level on human trafficking across the across the state.

So again, we will turn it back over to Robin to to closes out if anyone has any questions or would like to get in touch with you.

Dr. Armstrong our myself, please feel free to reach out and if you'd like to visit Human trafficking website for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, please.

Feel free to visit us at the site listed on your screen or

I love QR codes hold up your camera to the screen to point
it at the little squiggly Square on the right and it will
take you directly to our website.

So again, I thank you so much for being here.

Dr.

Armstrong and I are very happy to be here.

So I will turn it back to Robin to close it out Catherine
and dr.

Armstrong.

We had a question.

Ian from R&R comment from a couple of our law enforcement
colleagues and your presentation and and it was kind of triggered
by talking about the human trafficking screening tool one
person saying it would be great for law enforcement to be
notified. As soon as you all suspect along with your notification
to the hotline does that happen?

And that would be good information to get right away for
people on the ground in fact investigators.

Bascom from tpd here said it'd be good to have people calling
law enforcement the same time so they can coordinate and
and get get to it right away.

So maybe you can talk a bit about how what DCF does when
they get the call.

It's law enforcement called right away.

Should it be and is there an Avenue for you to be in touch
with others in law enforcement so they can find out right

away and get to work.

Yeah, and that's an excellent question and coming from um, the the famous detective Elizabeth Bascom I should add because that is not just Elizabeth Bascom detective that is one of the lead detectives on the case that Robin mentioned earlier for the huge operation stolen innocence out of Tallahassee.

So so that is a very worthy question from a very famous investigator.

So yes, yes and in many circumstances across the state the Local law enforcement is called at the same time as the part of child abuse hotline in my circumstances that does happen what we train the probation officers to do is to number one called a Florida child abuse hotline because they may or may not know anything about an alleged perpetrator.

They may or may not know anything about how this youth may be exploited and depending on the the circumstances that that use exploitation.

They may have been exploited in in the sense that they may have. Forced into criminality of their own as well.

And so it can be something that they can be a bit afraid of to call law enforcement because they recognize that this kid is engaged in whatever behaviors are engaged in as a part of their exploitation.

So when the call goes into Florida child abuse hotline, it goes in it goes into the Florida child abuse hotline and

I'm going to speak a little bit out of turn just because

I don't work for the Florida child abuse hotline, and I don't investigate child abuse.

But what they do is they assign a child protection investigator to the case who follows up and determines.

Is there a perpetrator that can be named like how how can how can the exploitation of this child be investigated?

Not just with the verification of this child as a victim of exploitation, but who is exploiting this child and so the Florida child abuse investigator at that point if law enforcement hasn't already been called at some point or another the child abuse investigator will will involve law enforcement as part of that child abuse investigation at that point.

So if they're not already called they'll be called in at some point to try and figure out who is exploiting that child.

Okay, and and is the tool done talk to us a little bit more about about how its decided to actually do the screening tool with the youth sure there's a few different a few different factors that tell us hey it's time to do a human trafficking screening tool.

So some of them are pretty obvious ones if somebody tells us. Hey, I think this kid might be a trafficking victim.

All right, there we go.

We're going to do a screening tool.

So if we get that information from school or from law enforcement or a parent or Some other community involved person or a medical professional will do a human trafficking screening tool if someone tells us we think this kid might be a trafficking victim also if that you've has any kind of a history in their delinquency history of trafficking related offenses.

So so dr.

Armstrong mentioned that juveniles cannot be charged with the crime of prostitution, but prior to 2016 juveniles could be charged with a crime and prostitution and there are still some juveniles out there that are a little bit older juveniles now, but still have older prostitution charges from pre 2016 or if a youth comes in with a charge that is human trafficking if they are accused of maybe being a peer recruiter or engaged in exploiting others, then we'll do a human trafficking screening tool if a kid comes in with any kind of a sex offense or sexually related offense in their history will do human trafficking screening tool and if Youth discloses any kind of history of sexual abuse or if the youth discloses any kind of history of running away a certain number of times all of those different criteria are reasons that will trigger a screen or to do an HTS D and good old spidey sense, you know your jpo senses if something just doesn't quite seem right go ahead and do that human trafficking screening tool have it interview with the kid.

Let me ask you to I remember when the Tool was just starting to be used that you found quite a few kids commit, Mass. Skin crimes that they're not really out there as as you're saying they're not really directly connected to human trafficking. It might be shoplifting or loitering or those kinds of things. Are you still seeing that come up a lot we do and recently we expanded the the criteria of delinquency charges. So used to be like if the kid came in with sex offenses or

with a charge of prostitution or prostitution related offense.

We would do you attract new screening tool.

We've updated that We expanded that so that any of those kids that come in with some of those masking charges or some of those the kids that come in with some of those charges that are frequently associated with trafficking.

So maybe an extortion charge or maybe a false ID to a law enforcement officer or possession of a fake ID something like that some of those charges that that our kids are often charged with that often have something to do with human trafficking.

They'll also result in a human trafficking screening tool even if it's not Not a straight-up trafficking offense, you know the other thing that occurs to me and very often because the cases like the one that broke this week, we think about human trafficking in the in the sense that here's what happened.

Here's somebody who is actually traffic but it seems like one of the more important things or eight not more important very important thing to do is to keep kids away from being trafficked right to intervene so that they're not traffic and to Your signs on the aces just to this point so much.

So are you all doing anything around doing some of that prevention work and intervention works so that kids aren't vulnerable to trafficking.

Yeah.

So by the time that they make it to the juvenile Assessment Center, or they make it into the Florida Juvenile Justice System proper per se typically they've they've had some intervention

from other.

Areas, whether it's School staff who are intervening in the Florida Department of Education is doing some amazing things and human trafficking prevention education.

And I know that we had some Department of Education folks on here a month or two ago doing a similar presentation and I think we have Valerie Ellery actually watching today, too. So, yeah, so so the Florida Department of Education is doing some fantastic work on human trafficking education and prevention.

Um as well as many other different Community organizations that are out there many task forces are doing human trafficking prevention education and as part of our updates in 2020, we I mentioned human trafficking screening tool and that we collect the data in the Juvenile Justice information system.

We have the human trafficking screening tool now just like just hot off the press it's now going to be available for DJ. Jay contracted delinquency prevention providers to start doing some human trafficking screening tool and some Advanced human trafficking training so that we can hopefully identify those kids if they're part of a prevention program.

So maybe a school for at-risk youth or maybe a after-school mentoring program the we we provide funding for hundreds of prevention programs across the state and they're now very very soon.

I'm going to be able to do human trafficking screening for themselves if they identify a kid that might be a victim.

We also have a grant pending that we're hoping that we get

funded for but you know finances for all kinds of different agencies and programs is always up in the air at the moment, but we have some funding pending for a human trafficking. Prevention and education curriculum that we would like to use with our kids that are involved with us starting in the starting in their residential commitment programs just because we'd like them if they're if they're with us all the way into our residential commitment programs.

They've probably gone through a lot in their life before they made it to us, but at least we can send them back home with some good skills and good treatment and some good knowledge on how to build healthy relationships with other individuals so that they can try and build up their own.

Fences and be a little bit more aware of how someone might try to recruit them into life when they come out of that commitment program absolutely crucial.

Yeah.

I mean if we don't start looking upstream or not going to we're not going to make it.

So I think that is DJJ considering the school's doing the HD SD as a measure of prevention.

Is that something are you working with the schools on that as part of the prevention?

The answer is guess they're kind of sort of for some of the schools that we work very closely with as far as like schools that are in our local detention center schools that are in our residential commitment programs and schools who maybe

serve at risk kids who receive some kind of DJ funding that's something that's in conversations.

But for the most part kids who are involved with us in some way shape or form are going to have an assigned juvenile probation officer and that assigned juvenile probation officer is a single point of contact for that.

Kid, no matter what's going on in their in their life and in their case and every single juvenile probation officer across the State of Florida is trained in the age TST and gets that training every year.

So and we've got just a couple that is so I've got two questions. Maybe we can get to them both one is and it might be related.

You can talk about this in a general sense.

But the question was what if any advocacy is being done by DJJ in regard to providing needed services for juveniles.

They're being transferred to criminal court or Advocating against such transfers.

So yeah, that's that's an excellent question.

Now for for us we were state agency that responds when kids are charged with delinquency acts.

Right?

So we are not charging kids with particular violations of law. We do charge kids with violations of probation or other kinds of technical violations of supervision.

But but we respond to the kids that come through our front door that have been charged by some other law enforcement entity. So, we we we don't necessarily get to pick and choose

the kids that have been charged with delinquency offenses, simply because we respond to them but when they do come into the purview of the Juvenile Justice System part of what we do with our screening is we make sure that other individuals within the Juvenile Justice System know that this case has been identified as a victim and that they make sure that that you've is linked with community-based service providers where ever they are in the state and that that information is included in information that goes to the courts and is part of their It's not necessarily specifically part of a disposition recommendation.

Like we're not going to you know, necessarily say that out in open court for everybody to know but we are going to make sure that that use defense counsel knows about their victimization history and that they are or are not involved in some kind of advocacy organization and and then we continue to present the opportunity for them to obtain treatment and assistance and to cooperate with any kind of HD investigations that take place.

So we we absolutely advocate for what the youth needs and if that youth has experienced exploitation in their history.

We're absolutely going to make sure that we Advocate that that youth receive services that are targeted to that set of needs.

Okay, great.

And then just real quick the product of the hgst is it a probability store?

Is that an actual?

You know, what do you do with that information?

And it's pours out what there's there's two parts to the
hd-sdi, right?

So there's the there's the part that Juvenile Justice looks
at and other Juvenile Justice contractors look at where we're
trying to make an assessment for is there enough information
in front of us to where we would make a call to the Florida
child abuse hotline we are so we're looking for an assessment
of what's the likelihood that this youth is a victim of trafficking
and we asked our folks to make a determination of likelihood
and then once it goes over to the, Florida Department of
Children and Families and that abuse investigation is opened
up then they follow their structured protocols for determining
what evidence do they have based on the information that
they got from our hgst and then how they follow up with their
own human trafficking investigation with their team of child
abuse investigators who are specially trained in HT, then
they follow their structure decision-making protocols to
determine what is there enough evidence to verify the sea
was a trafficking victim Very good, very good.

Well, and I think that's all we have time for today everybody
and I do believe we did get to everybody's questions.

So so Catherine, thank you.

Dr.

Armstrong.

Thank you for getting through.

I don't know if you all were counting, but there's something like 67 slides maybe more but you did.

Thanks so much and with time for questions thanks to all of you for attending.