

Children And Youth Covid-19 Listening Session

SPEAKER 1: Thank you for joining our listening session on sustaining services for children and youth victims during COVID-19. My name is Charity Hope. I'm the deputy director of the Center on Victimization and Safety at the Vera Institute of Justice, and the National Resource Center for Reaching Victims.

With that, I will turn things over to Greg Flett with the National Children's Advocacy Center. Greg leads the work on the National Resource Center for Reaching Victims around reaching children and youth who are victims of crime. Greg, take it away.

SPEAKER 2: Hello, everybody. I am really happy to join you all today. And I just want to start by appreciating all of the people behind the scenes who have helped make this happen. There is a lot going on that many of you probably can't see, so I just want to acknowledge that.

As Charity said, my name is Greg Flett, I'm with the National Children's Advocacy Center. I've been doing work with children and youth for about 15 years now, focusing on child advocacy centers, multi-disciplinary teams. And I'm really happy to-- sorry, it sounds like people can't hear me. I'm just going to move my mic here a little bit closer so they can hear me.

So really, just happy to be here to host a conversation today about what we're seeing and hearing in the field of children and youth. And I'm really happy to hear from all of you. So with that in mind, I'll just say that I'm not surprised that we have over 300 people in this room today. In my experience from working with people in this field, they show up.

So our frame today, really, is to take advantage of that, to take advantage of the dedication and commitment to all of you, and the commitment you have to helping kids, and to really create a space where we can listen and hear from you. We want to tailor our services, we want to tailor our resources to what's needed right now during this unprecedented time. And that really starts with getting input from the field.

In my experience, answers sometimes come from experts. But most of the time, those are answers to questions that we've been looking at for a while, answers to questions that we have already been studying. In my experience, answers to really tough questions come from creating spaces for people to come together, and that's our hope for today.

So with that in mind, we really want to hear from you, what have you been seeing and hearing in the field that has given you pause, given you concern, surprise. We want to hear where you're seeing the need for help, where you may need help, where some of your partners may need help to serve kids, and perhaps

most importantly, we want to hear what's been giving you hope. What things you have seen that have been working, what things you have seen that have been helping to connect resources to kids in need.

So we invite you to raise your hand. We invite you to throw some questions into that chat box and really help kick off this conversation to figure out how we can continue to serve children and youth in need.

As we're waiting for some of those questions to come in, I just want to give a quick shout out to those of you who are joining us from home with kids. You are doing the work right there in your own homes and we appreciate that. I know that many of us are now homeschool teachers, and that's an important piece of keeping kids safe and connected as well. So I know how hard that is myself, so I just want to offer a shout out for you guys doing that work.

So I see a question in the chat box here as to where to connect to resources for telehealth interventions for children. It's a really important thing that has been growing. Even before, we have found ourselves in this situation. There are some resources out there. I would absolutely recommend you connect to your local children's advocacy center. They have connections to mental health professionals in the community that you are in, who are likely working to set up telehealth services.

The Western Regional Children's Advocacy Center, I know, has a whole host of information on their website about tele-mental health, how to connect to those telehealth services, and it really does extend beyond just tele-mental health. There are some really good telehealth resources out there as well. So that's definitely something we've been seeing.

The resource that I just mentioned, the link, and I'll try to add into my chat here, but it's the WesternRegionalCAC.org. If you Google it, I'm sure you'll find it. And they have a page dedicated to just tele-mental health resources on their website, both how to access them, I believe, and how to find those. I know we've got some CAC friends on the call today and maybe one of them could dump that into the chat box as well for everybody.

I see a question here about children's advocacy centers. They're noticing a large drop in the number of referrals. They're hearing concerns about fewer cases being reported and children having less access to supportive adults. It's definitely a concern we've been hearing about in the field. The mental image I get in my head when I think about this is just a really sharp decline in the requests for services at CACs. The numbers of forensic interviews, the numbers of kids coming in, even just the number of reports coming in to CPS. And that absolutely is a cause for concern.

On the other side of that, which is also a cause for concern, one of the things we've heard is that those cases that are coming into advocacy centers, they tend to be those that are more extreme. They're seeing higher levels of violence, a lot of physical abuse, emerging cases that are coming in, which is challenging as well. We've heard, or we're hoping to hear more, I should say, ways-- and perhaps you guys can join in on this-- ways that we can continue to find access to kids to continue to be vigilant and remind people to be vigilant about the needs of children and the dangers of abuse that are going on even when they are in their own homes which oftentimes for some children are not safe to begin with.

SPEAKER 1: And Greg, we do have a hand raised. This is Charity. Anne, I have given you the permission to unmute yourself. And I actually need to promote you so you can use your video. Hold on just a second.

SPEAKER 2: I think we're waiting for Anne to--

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. Anne, I think, did you want to contribute via video, Anne? I don't see your video icon popping up quite yet. We have given you permission to stream your video. Greg, we'll keep working with Anne on the back-end to see if we can get her video working and then we'll circle back around.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah, there's been some more questions about tele-mental health and telehealth coming in. One of the resources that's listed in the chat box, you'll see the National Children's Alliance, a great organization that keeps child advocacy centers connected and set some high standards for children's advocacy centers, has an entire page related to COVID-19 resources. A host of which relate to telehealth and tele-mental health, and the link is there in the chat box as well if you scroll through to find it.

One of the questions as to how to engage children in that tele-mental health. And that's a real challenge I would imagine, having done clinical work in a distant life. I know how hard it is sometimes to engage children in person and so it is one of those things. What I would encourage, and we found a lot of value in this from some of the folks we've talked to, is just really finding networks of other individuals doing the work.

I'm definitely not the person to help answer some of these questions here, but I know there are a lot of really good networks out there who might be interested in forming a conversation around that. Really, finding value and reaching out to one another to share ideas, share thoughts, and really connect around some of these challenging questions. Like many of you have probably experienced, a lot of people are just looking to find ways to connect, share ideas-- I mean, that's the spirit of this call today-- and really find ideas from those people who are also

doing the same work and struggling with some of those same challenges.

Someone writes here that they contacted their local newspaper. They did an article on their child advocacy center, highlighting signs and symptoms of abuse. I think it's a great way, just one other way to connect to your community, where you are, reminding people that they can be vigilant and keep an eye out.

It might be just one child who is connected to a resource because of an article like that, but that would be a huge success in my opinion. So I think that's a great way, finding maybe access to local news channels and resources within your community who have a broader reach or a broader voice who can remind people that some of the challenges that are existing in our community don't go away. In fact, they are exacerbated by situations like this. So yeah, it's a great idea, finding ways to really broaden that voice.

Sorry, I'm just reading the chat box here and trying to stay. You guys are coming in with some great questions and some great ideas. They have school staff in some areas handing out school lunches on a daily basis. Could be a way to maybe share resources with parents, providing maybe a flyer or a handout with those lunches. Could just be another way to have eyes on a child, perhaps helping those people at those places who are handing out those lunches to be aware and alert of signs. Or really, even

just getting resources into the hands of those kids who might need them. I think it's a great idea. Thank you for sharing that.

There are a ton of resources for parents out there. And I think there have always been a lot of resources out there for mandated reporters. A quick Google search for trainings for mandated reporters, even if it's particular specific to your state, will likely yield a whole host of things. If you're not finding them, I would encourage you to reach out to your local advocacy center.

There are plenty of CACs we know that do trainings around mandated reporting, what to look for, how to keep vigilant for some of those signs and symptoms for those who maybe still have access to kids and can be vigilant. Reaching out to those advocacy centers is absolutely a great way to learn about that. There might be an option for an online training or something like that. I can guarantee that there are resources in such things as Darkness to Light who do a stewards of children training. I know you can access that online.

I'll say that again a little bit slower. It's Darkness to Light, and they have a website that has a host of information about signs and symptoms for children at risk of abuse. And that would be a place to take a look at.

Some of the online media-- social media, Facebook-- also ways to remind friends, family members, other contacts you have to keep

vigilant, have eyes on, connect to people who might need help. Some CACs or it seems like some organizations are posting videos. There is a lot of virtual information being shared. I think it's wonderful that people can stay connected and get information in this way. So just finding ways to share information, really reach out to your communities, spread the word, lots of different creative ways that are happening like that. So I think that's great to see.

I think one of the things that we're also wondering is what are you seeing as needs, what are some of the needs that you guys are experiencing? I'm curious to hear if you are a victim advocate, if you are a therapist or some other provider, what are some of the things that you're finding yourselves needing at this point? Whether it be access to information, training, connection to other professionals doing the work. Please share some of those thoughts if you have questions or needs that you're experiencing.

And we'll extend that to kind of ask, what are you hearing from some of your partners? We have a host of partners in this work with children use from school resource officers, victimized kids, doctors, child protection workers, even the school systems are doing a lot of the work as our partners in this. What are you hearing, if anything, from them? What are you not hearing that's giving you some concern? And what are some of the needs that you're recognizing?

Yeah, we have another CAC here said they put out a parent toolkit on their webpage and they're putting information out on social media. That's ButterflyBridgeCAC.org who is sharing some of those resources. A question here about how to engage younger clients during phone sessions.

Man, that's a tough one. Engaging younger clients even in person can be challenging. I think one of the things we would absolutely recommend is lower your expectations when it comes with working with younger children. Don't underestimate the value of a five-minute phone call with a younger child. Just some other way to stay connected and to not lose sight of the fact that they, more often than not, are knowing that that call means someone cares about them. So lowering expectations and really helping to just stay connected if you can even if it's a very brief engagement can be a valuable thing. And also, not try to do too much. In this time, just really being a listening ear for a child can have a lot of benefit.

So there's a question here asking if anyone's trying to deliver a direct lifeline, a way for children to contact CPS or protective services if they are in a home with an abuser. It says, few kids that I work with are having-- few of any kids I'm working with am I having physical contact with, or are they having contact with outside of school.

Yeah, it's a challenging. One of the things we know is that we can encourage-- yeah, it's almost a tricky one to even answer. We can encourage kids to reach out to CPS themselves. We can encourage kids to talk to their parents about a friend. If they have a friend they're worried about, that's where a lot of these disclosures come from historically, anyway, is from a friend who hears a concern or has a concern about another school age friend. Then we can encourage those kids to remember to talk to their parents and hope and trust that their parents will perhaps pick up a phone and make a call to CPS.

I think reaching out through social media is a valid or valuable place to do that, and just finding different types of ways to access kids. I know that becomes a challenge. I know this is something we've not necessarily prepared for, which is why innovative ideas and really thinking through ideas are what's going to be helpful at this point.

So there are some people out there who are looking for technology, it seems like. Some therapists are struggling because they don't have the technology resources they might need or they're looking for technology tools to do tele-mental health. I would encourage anybody in that point or that place to reach out to a CAC. If you are a CAC who are experiencing that, reach out to your state chapter representative. I know there have been some conversations about how do we take some of the resources

that might be existing and pivot with them. How do we connect them to individuals who might need technology, whether it's an iPad.

I have heard anecdotally of some states who are thinking about how to just send an iPad to every CAC if that's something they can do. It's a challenge. There's a lot of hurdles to do that, but it's something that we're hopeful we can continue to hear more about in the coming weeks as this pulls on a little longer.

There are some logistical hurdles we're hearing about as well. Paperwork, really, that hasn't stopped. There have been some easing of some requirements and hanging about some of the bulletins about HIPAA and things like that, but there are still those logistical challenges that are going to be hurdles. Hopefully, some of that can be done through the internet or online, use computers, but that is a challenge as well.

There's a chat here saying that some CPS workers are looking to do healthy visits with some of the kids that they're working with, whether it be through Skype or FaceTime or Zoom or other means of technology. I think that's a great innovation if they can do that. I know there's some logistical or privacy hurdles with that, but it's a nice feature if you can do that in your area.

Wow, you guys are great just coming in with a whole host of ideas here. I think we're going to pause and-- oh, that's just in a

minute. We're going to pause to switch interpreters. But one other idea we're hearing is grief groups in schools. I think that's one of the really important things to remember that when we think about grief, we often think about it in the traditional sense of losing someone.

One of the fortunate things about this pandemic is we're not seeing high numbers of children dying or in significant health issues. That's not 100%, but it is the case. But that doesn't mean children youth aren't experiencing a sense of grief and loss, whether it be loss of access to family members, loss of access to their routines that they've become so accustomed to, loss of access to friends that they see. That's a huge thing for kids that I think we can sometimes underestimate.

I'm glad that children and youth can still perhaps connect via the internet, but a lot of them can't. Whether it's lack of technology, lack of Wi-Fi, lack of space to do that in a safe and comfortable way in their home, that's a real loss to a kid and I think it's important that we don't underestimate those. The idea that schools closed, as an adult sounds wonderful if I think back to my 12-year-old self, but when I was 12 years old, that probably would have been a hit for me.

So just remembering that that's a significant thing in the life of a child, not to have that access. If we can find ways to support connecting children and youth, even if it's with those safe

precautions that we know we want to maintain, I think that's a huge thing to sustaining kids through a challenging time. Yeah, we're hearing resources here--

SPEAKER 1: Hey, Greg.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah.

SPEAKER 1: Oh, I was just going to pause this. I'm sorry, I thought were in natural pause. My apologies. Pauses for an interpreter switch. And we're also switching our Spanish language interpreters too. Just a couple more moments.

Oh, and I think we're ready, Greg.

SPEAKER 2: Great. I just want to highlight a resource that I saw come in during that switch. It lifts up the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. It's a tremendous resource for working with families and children, especially those who've experienced trauma. If you scroll up, there's a link there in the chat box and I appreciate whoever shared that. They have a whole host of resources that are going to speak to some of the challenges I'm sure you guys are seeing with children and youth in the field at this point.

One the questions-- go ahead, Charity. Do you want to-- I see a hand raised.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah, we've got a hand out, Greg. So I'm going to give unmute Kylie. Kylie, you should be able to unmute yourself now. Sometimes-- this is Charity-- sometimes Zoom is a little quirky. We have given Kylie the permission to talk. But Kylie, you would need to mute yourself on your end and make sure your mic is on. Greg, we'll keep working on this from the back-end and we'll circle back around to Kylie.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah, that's no problem. I'm also seeing in the chat box that a lot of people are commenting on the comments by Erin McGrody who shared a link to-- it looks like a website called [safe2saypa.org](https://www.safe2saypa.org). I didn't know if Erin, you want to share a few thoughts about that and maybe speak to that a little bit. I don't know if we can unmute Aaron there as well.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah.

SPEAKER 2: While we're doing that, there's been a couple notes in the chat box about using online platforms, particularly Zoom. Early throughout this process or throughout this whole ordeal, the Zoom did experience a handful of security issues. It's my understanding that they have actually moved pretty quickly to resolve some of those and to put precautions in that you can take. So adding a password, not sharing your Zoom links publicly or privately.

I would say we've found a lot of success with Zoom and haven't experienced any of those security issues. So if you want to go back to that and take a look at it, reach out to us. We're happy to share our experiences about it and with it. But it still seems to be a platform that has been finding value for a lot of people. Aaron, it looks like you're unmuted, you want to say a little bit about some of the resources you're sharing?

SPEAKER 3: Yeah, can you hear me OK?

SPEAKER 2: Yeah, absolutely.

SPEAKER 3: OK, so I just want to give a disclaimer. I get a lot of referrals from Safe2Say because I work in a mental health crisis center. So I have like a basic understanding. I've read some information about it. But basically, in PA, it was put out by the attorney general's office. So either parents, educators or other kids can submit an anonymous tip. And then I don't know if someone from the Safe2Say program, like someone reviews that tip, and then they decide like do we have to contact police if someone's in eminent danger or safety, or is it best if someone just follows up with a local crisis center, or can we just like contact the school and work things out that way.

So that's like the different ways that it can work. A lot of times, I end up seeing kids as just like they will make a comment about wanting to hurt themselves or others in a school setting or like

maybe wanting to do harm to somebody else and then they're normally referred to the crisis center. So I think you can also report like child abuse and other things and you don't have to identify who you are. So I think that might be helpful. I mean, we've definitely gotten referrals from other kids and they've been like, oh, I know who did this like so-and-so must have said this. So there's benefits to it, but like everything, it has its drawbacks for sure.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah, it sounds like a great resource. Thank you for sharing that. I'd be curious and I'll do some looking to see if there's similar resources in other states. It sounds like just a nice one more way type approach to connect kids to services. Thanks for sharing that, Erin.

SPEAKER 3: Yeah, no problem.

SPEAKER 2: One of the other items that came up in a chat box was the use of tele-forensic interviewing. For those of you who are not familiar, forensic interviews are conversations with kids that are used to explore allegations of abuse. They've got some pretty strict parameters on them. And as you can imagine, it's been challenging to figure out how to do those in a way that keeps people appropriately distant, but also maintains the integrity of the interview, while also making sure that we're not doing any undue trauma to that child through the interview itself.

Again, the National Children's Alliance has a host of resources on their website that speak to tele-forensic interviewing. The caution that we would share is that there's a lot of things to think about when doing your standard forensic interview. And so doing it remotely introduces some additional considerations so just be cautious with that.

Review some of the recommendations that have been put out there. Those can be found at that NCA website. And really, be cautious in doing those in a way that are going to make sure that the child's interests and the interviews interests are maintained. But for those of you who are continuing to do those, we really applaud you. Those are challenging interviews to do and I can imagine they are much more challenging to do remotely and through the use of technology.

It looks like there's a resource shared here by the Minnesota Domestic Violence Coalition or about the Minnesota Domestic Violence Coalition. It's a resource package that includes resources for talking about COVID-19 with children, healthy relationship activities for youth during the pandemic, and a lot of self-care fun activities for parents and children to do. I'll be taking a look at those, for sure, just to have some good self-care activities and some fun activities to do with kids.

I was surprised just to share a little bit how many questions my own kids had, ranging from very scientific questions to like how is

the disease shared, to what does this mean for me and going back to school and my friends. Again, I think it's a reminder that we can talk to kids about some of these things. I love a resource like this that helps us to think about how to do that and it means staying connected with a kid in a healthy way, a child in a healthy way to help them make sense of all of these things that we didn't anticipate and they didn't anticipate having to make sense of. So I appreciate the sharing of that resource.

There's a question here about how organizations can support staff's well-being. Yeah, this is something that is both been an area of interest and focus of ours at NCAC and the southern regional CAC for some time, about vicarious trauma, secondary traumatic stress, organizational capacity for dealing with some of these things that has been really elevated and lifted up. The first recommendation I would share and we've heard a lot of value in this from some organizations that we've been talking with is to stay connected.

As you can imagine, and no doubt have experienced perhaps yourself, feeling isolated in this time is not a good thing. It's not something that people want to experience if they don't have to. If you think about a workforce, a field who thrives on connection with children, through working with partners, through being out in the field and doing this work, you can imagine how challenging it is to feel like you don't have access to that utility, to that value

that you can add. So staying connected with others in your organization, I've heard of organizations who are coming together to just have lunches, have coffee chats that don't have anything to do with the work itself are just opportunities to pause, to find moments of connection with individuals that really don't ratchet up that anxiety, that stress that perhaps the work can cause. So that's one recommendation.

I know there are a whole host of resources out there and perhaps some of my colleagues can share some of them if they have resources for organizations who really do have some valuable tips about managing organizational trauma, stress, and anxiety as a team. I'd love to see some of those come in. This CAC here has created a link that they're sharing with families and providers with information around COVID-19. They have found that it's helpful to provide that to people. So there's a link there in the chat box as well.

Another parent toolkit has come in from the National Children's Advocacy Center. That's right, we just did put a toolkit together. I know we also-- I'll slow down a minute. I know we also interpreted that toolkit into Spanish as well for our Spanish speaking communities. And you can find those at the NationalCAC.org. I think there's a link there in the toolkit as well.

I think one of the other things I'm really interested in hearing from you all is what has been helpful? Back to that question

about managing stress, managing anxiety as a team, what's been helpful for you all? What have you seen that has been hopeful and really helpful in carrying you all through some of this stuff?

I know we've heard from some folks that have within the CAC world let us know that this has been an opportunity for them to really see how these teams function as a team. When you are forced to rely on your partners, when you're forced to be effective and intentional in your communication, you really do see how some of these networks that we've created with law enforcement, CPS, prosecution, we're relying on those in a time when we absolutely need to. So we're kind of lifted up by that.

We're lifted up by this idea that these teams that we know have challenges were lifted up by the idea that they're sustaining some of the challenges that are existing in this current crisis. And they're staying connected, they're doing the work, they're finding ways. There's a recommendation here to remind each other that there are some opportunities for humor and levity in this. And that we can rely on each other to lift our spirits. So sharing just different things out there that have brought you joy, sharing it with others is another way to kind of sustain and manage that.

There is a request here to see all of the resources that have been shared in this conversation. And if I'm not mistaken, we will be posting the chat and all the links included in this chat, and those

will be accessible. Oh, thank you, Jackie, for mentioning that as well.

It looks like ReachingVictims.org is a place to go to find the recording of this session and to find some of the stuff that's been captured in the chat as well. There's a resource here that's been shared called Tend Academy. There are a host of professionals doing this work, and their work is to think about those who are impacted by the work.

My boss, Karen Hengartner, Francois Matthew are just a few of the people who are connected and invested in some of that stuff. And so that's a really great resource that's in there. Again that's TendAcademy.ca. I definitely encourage you to check that out.

There's also a lot of great trainings and resources online. I think this is one of the things that I'm looking forward to hearing more about from you all. We've heard that people who are not able to do the direct work are looking for resources. They're looking for ways to continue to learn, to continue to improve their skills while they can't do perhaps some direct service. So there's a whole host of resources out there. The NCAC Training Center, the TrainingInstitute.org has some resources, it looks like, I'm seeing here in the chat box. I think there's a lot of them out there.

We've heard the other side to this as well. We've heard that folks are getting a little tired of sitting in their spaces and watching

webinars, watching recorded videos. And I'm sure some of you may be watching this as a recorded video in the future. That's where we remind people to balance this with connection.

I love bringing people together to share ideas and think what might be some small thing, some small thing we can do.

Someone recommended to me the other day that their CAC might start just printing up coloring sheets and taking some coloring sheets and sliding them into a manila envelope with a box of crayons and leaving them outside of their center. Just as a small thing that they can do and feel like they're doing to provide a resource to the kids that they're used to connecting with and used to supporting.

I'm a big fan of small actions like that, that really could be the big difference in a day for a child. Something that maybe a parent could just hand a kid to do when they need to get a little something done or have some space. So I would really encourage everybody to think with others about small things that they might do. It doesn't have to move mountains, but really just be a space or an effort that might make a small change.

There's been a few questions coming in through the chat box about reaching out to individuals who perhaps don't always have the most access to services-- the LGBTQ community, minority communities, immigrant communities, the deaf and hard of hearing community, communities and groups that at baseline,

unfortunately, really have to work to get access to resources. It's an encouragement that we're thinking about that but I would encourage everybody to continue thinking about that.

I know we at NCAC, we put out this parent resource and immediately heard back that we need to interpret it. And so we worked quickly to do that. We needed to translate it rather, and we worked quickly to do that. Just keeping those groups in mind, I think, is important. So I'd love to hear and ask for people to share resources or just anything they can think of to help us continue to make sure we're connecting to those groups as well.

There's a note here that says many victims service providers who serve kids are feeling angst knowing that there are referrals that are lagging, that we're not seeing the cases that we're seeing. And I think that angst comes in two parts. It's, one, that we're going to see a whole bunch of-- that we're not seeing a whole bunch of cases right now but we are going to, sooner or later, see the flood gates open and those cases come back in.

So there's a note here, a reminder here to just be thinking forward. How are we going to prepare? How are we going to keep ourselves in the right space and healthy to be able to provide those services down the road, which I think is an important consideration? Someone writes here that they're sending letters to kids who are in shelters right now. She can't physically see them but connecting them through letters.

I don't know about you, but when my daughter opens up a piece of mail, even if it's just a drawing from a friend, I think that's a huge gift for her. And so finding small ways like that to brighten the day of a kid, don't underestimate those. Someone's offering a reminder here to share captions to your Facebook videos, and your photos on Facebook. Just a nice small way to remember that there's a need for that out there. I like that reminder a lot.

I'm seeing question here asking about state level of national work from NCA or the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, putting out awareness on the drop in reports. There's been some, I think, conversations that are going on about these drops in reports. I think we're really trying to wrap our heads around what to do. I think it's a good question to think about how we, nationally or on this higher level, there's definitely been articles in newspapers. There's been concern but I would echo the person who shared this that we probably could do a better job on a broader level highlighting this and just doing whatever we can to maintain some vigilance around that drop in reports.

Somebody mentions here that the YMCA in their area has converted its lending library to a supply cabinet. I think that's wonderful. I think remembering that there are families in need out there who have children, who may need specific supplies as kids. And some of those supplies are probably hygiene supplies, but some of those things could be as simple as a game or

activity. I know, I'll put the asterisk around that, that sharing some of these things in a time where we're trying to reduce contamination and conveyance is a question. So I'll ensure that you guys think about that appropriately, but figuring out perhaps how to share some of those resources might be an important one.

That's right, my good friend, Caitlin, from NCA shares a link here - and I appreciate everything that people are sharing. There is a brief on highlighting awareness of this drop for CACs. There's media awareness kits or tools and resources. There's a link there. But I'm assuming it can also be found at the NCA website, a great resource, again.

Somebody writes that they've been getting small care packages together for clients. Figuring out what they might need. I love some of these suggested, things that are included snacks, drinks, sidewalk chalk, scavenger hunt ideas, jump ropes. These are just small examples of things that I don't know about you, but in my experience, they brightened the day of a child, they build that resilience in the child to know that people are caring about them, and they build hope in a parent, I would imagine too. Hoping a parent that says, wow, maybe this is one more day I can get through. And if that's one more day they can get through, perhaps it's one more day they can get through with their kids and taking care of their kids.

It's a challenge. I would imagine to be trapped in a home with a child. I know it's a challenge to be trapped in a home with two kids. And to find ways to engage in fun is something we need to remember to do. So helping kids to do that. Care packages, again, really important, I think, and helpful out there to connect people.

Simple activities to do with children and adolescents. Again, from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, there's a link there as well. So what have you seen? I'm curious. In these few minutes that we have left, what have you seen that are giving you hope? Small things, perhaps, that are filling you with a hopefulness that this is going to be a challenge but a challenge that we can get through through connection and resource together. I'm looking in the chat box here for really just high points that people can share that might help us to continue to be positive and stay positive.

I think one of the hopeful things I've absolutely heard is just small ways that teams are figuring this out. Teams are challenging at baseline, but there are teams out there that are thinking about how they can stay connected through all this. Whether it be a virtual case review process, through Zoom, or something like that. Just staying connected as a team is challenging a baseline but we've seen a lot of teams employing strategies to do that.

Communities. There's a note here that says communities are really thinking how they can help each other, whether it be a bear hunt where every house puts a stuffed animal or a bear in a community. And as you walk through the community, you keep an eye out for them. I love the idea of pinwheel hunt. April is child abuse awareness month and I think if there ever was a month or ever was a year where we needed to be aware of child abuse, this is it. So putting a pinwheel on your lawn, or better yet, 100 pin wheels on your lawn might be a nice thing to do.

I know CACs who have been unable to offer the services they usually offer, have still found ways to flood their yards, their spaces with pin wheels. I think that's a great thing. For those of you who don't know, the pinwheel is the symbol of National Child Abuse Awareness Month. Wellness activity Monday. I think that's great. They all made pin wheels together. I think that's a great example of how centers can continue to do some of this stuff and be a connection to the community.

Maybe if every CAC found, I don't know, a template online where you can make your own pinwheel and they shared it, whether through virtually where you could print it out at home or maybe people could pick them up at the CAC, what a great thing to see that people were remembering children and youth. That's a reminder right now not to just remember about the young children and youth that we serve, but older youth, teens. I don't

know, I think when I think of children and youth I always go to my six-year-old, my five-year-old. But teenagers are probably no doubt experiencing some of these challenges as well.

Many of our most vulnerable youth are homeless and without a place to stay at baseline. So thinking about those communities, connecting those groups to resources I think are an important thing to consider. We'll be looking for resources online about them as well, perhaps.

Someone asked a question. They said they missed the part about technology. In our agency, clients are struggling with not having computer access. Are there any resources for this? I think that's a huge thing. I would suggest, again, starting with your local CAC, moving on up and seeing if they can be of help. It's something that really does highlight a technological divide in this country, whether it be in a rural area or an impoverished area. There are some great ways to connect to kids if they have access to that technology. But if they don't, it really does present some limitations. So we'll continue to think about that. I wish I had a better answer for that for you.

Some schools are having staff do a phone tree, where staff call five to 10 families just to check in every week. I think that could be a great idea. Just to really let them know, even if it's just to let them know that we're here and concerned about you. There's

probably a lot of value in that, just letting that family know we're here.

A note here. We're working with teenagers and youth through the age of 24. They've come up with scavenger hunt and activities for them to do as older kids, drop off different tasks each week in care bags. What a great idea to remember that these older youth need attention too, they need some connection. I like that idea a lot.

There's a question here about a list of national or even state level COVID response grants. At the end of this call, it does touch on a really challenging point. We are going to be in a place of need for resources. It is just the reality of this. I would say reach out to your state chapters. The state chapters that I'm speaking of are children's advocacy state chapters. They help to arrange for and connect CACs to a lot of funding. They may know of grants in your state. Definitely something that we're continuing to think about. How do we make sure that we have the resources to do what we need to do, both now and when the real need shows up a couple months from now? So we'll be continuing to think about ways to push out access to those resources, those grants, those opportunities for support as they open up.

I want to take a minute here, and I think we're almost at our end. And I just want to appreciate how many of you have shown up today and how many of you show up every day to be there for

kids and youth, to be there for children in need. I mean, I've long worked in this field. I've worked in this field long enough to know that advocates for children don't ever quit. They don't seem to ever get tired. They work tirelessly to find ways to help kids and families to help children and youth. And I just want to applaud that. I want to appreciate that and appreciate all the resources that have been shared today

I know this is going to be a little bit of a battle going forward, but it is gatherings like this that bring me a lot of hope and positivity. I really just can't say enough for how much I appreciate, respect and applaud you for all that you're doing. I would encourage you to not forget to take care of yourselves we can't do the work for others if we're not really taking care of ourselves. So be sure to find some of that time for yourself. Listen to what you need just as we're listening along with you for what you need. And make some space for that.

Again, these resources that we're sharing will be posted on-- let's see if we can get Jackie to list that website there at the bottom again. But we'll post this, a recording of this, and some of the resources that have been shared on the chat feature. And hopefully you, guys, can access those. It's reachingvictims.org.

And Charity, I don't know if you have any final words you want to share to wrap us up. But I just want to say thanks to everybody who helped make this happen behind the scenes, once again.

That was a really fun experience for me and I'm glad to have done it.

SPEAKER 1: Thanks, Greg, I think you already wrapped it up perfectly. So thank you everyone and thank you to our interpreters. Thank you to Greg. Everyone, hang in there and we'll see you soon.