

## Trauma-Informed Approaches to Working with Immigrants

### Webinar Captions

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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Please stand by for realtime captions.

>> Hello everyone I am Alicia Lord with NCJFCJ. If you experience any tech issues you can click on the help button. You can let us know in the checkbox if you are having any technical issues.

>> We would like your feedback on today's event. The survey will appear on your screen at the conclusion of this event. Thank you for your attention.

>> Hello everybody. My name is Jennifer Rose. I am a Consultant, Futures Without Violence. Welcome. Today's webinar is part of an ongoing series of webinars focusing on children's exposure to violence. This webinar series is sponsored and funded either by the defending childhood initiative.

>> You will receive ongoing emails after attending today's webinar. We typically have one once a month. Webinar -- our webinar will be 90 minutes. If you have any questions regarding technical issues, please send a chat and we will get to them as soon as possible. Before we get to our presentation today I will give you an overview of the defending childhood work that has happened and led to this series. Futures without violence and has been funded by NCJFCJ as part of our initiative. Attorney general Eric Holder funded this initiative. More than 60% of children surveyed were exposed to violence within the past year either directly or indirectly. In fact that children are more likely to be exposed to violence and crime than adults.

>> This initiative is being supported across many federal agencies, as you can see.

>> We have three main goals. The first goal is to prevent and reduce children's exposure to violence. Then mitigate the negative effects of violence and to spread knowledge across the country.

>> Defending childhood has strategies and components. Sites are developing and intervention to meet the needs of all children's in our communities through age 17. There is a researcher evaluation component. In December 2012 the Attorney General released a task force report with outlines on how we should respond to children exposed to violence. There is a link to the access to the force report.

>> Recommendations for African-American and Alaskan children is -- also has a link.

>> We think of you -- all of you who are helping us create these solutions.

>> We think NCJFCJ for ongoing funding and support.

>> We are thrilled to be facilitating this webinar today. We have heard from many of you and we have heard from the funders that this is a most relevant and much-needed topic and discussion for us to be having. We are pleased to have fantastic speakers today to share their knowledge and facilitate a dialogue with all of us. First we have Gail Pendleton she is Executive Director, ASISTA Immigration

Assistance. This is funded by the national office for [ Inaudible ] she received the American immigration lawyers and human rights award in 2004 -- one 2001. She will be the moderator for our call today.

>> We also have Giselle A. Hass , Psy.D., ABAP. She is licensed to practice in Virginia and the District of Columbia and is a diplomat on the board of assessment psychology. She has worked on family and immigration law. Her expertise served in child abuse and neglect, intimate partner abuse and mental health attachment and psychological assessments. She is a magic professor of law at Georgetown University law school. The center for applied legal sought -- studies. [ Inaudible ]

>> Next we have Jennifer Podkul. Policy Director, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND). Jennifer was a senior program officer at the refugee commission where she researched issues facing vulnerable migrants seeking protection in the United States. She is an expert and has written books on immigration law.

>> [ Inaudible ] Jennifer has taught child migration at Georgetown Institute. She began her legal career in Washington DC.'s first she was an equal Justice Works fellow and then as a kind fellow. She has served as a [ Inaudible ] it is my pleasure to hand it over to our speakers today for our webinar. Thank you so much everybody.

>> Hello, this is Gail Pendleton. I apologize if I do anything wrong. This is the first time I have ever use the Adobe platform. It looks like we have an amazing group of participants here. Just a couple of notes first. We will do an overview. Probably We won't have a lot of time for you to give your own experiences. It looks like you have a lot of relevant experience that you would like to share. We recommend you use the checkbox that you are using if you have extra thoughts on what we are saying. You can shares we go. If we're talking about basic concepts that don't make sense to you and you need clarification, send the questions otherwise, we would like to have a -- we will hold discussing them until we get through the bulk of our content.

>> The goals of this are that by the end of this you will be able to understand the history and nature of trauma immigrant children have. Recognize additional barriers they may need to overcome to succeed. Identify ways you can implement what you learned in your work with immigrant children.

>> What other final thing to think about as we are going, it seems to me that a lot of you are from diverse areas to come together. We do have this to get a sense of your experience. Also be thinking, are there other topics that would be worth doing. I think that those of us on the scope would love to find a way to continue with this kind of webinar in the future.

>> To get a sense of where you are, we want to find out whether you are working with immigrant children already and if you are, some very basic things. Are you working with unaccompanied children, Dominic came by themselves, came with their mothers, or maybe came with other family members. You want to tell them how to do this poll?

>> Sorry. If everyone can click one of the choices underneath the question, that would be great. The first is yes by themselves yes with their mothers, yes with other family members and the last week not at this time. -- And lastly, not at this time. We will give some time to finish your answers. Then we will broadcast people and give you results.

>> -- Broadcast the poll and give you results.

>> Just a couple more seconds for your answers.

>> It is one answer only multiple-choice.

>> We will and people. It looks like most of the people that answered said yes, with other family members. The second most answered -- most clicked answered -- answer was yes, with their mothers. I will give it back to Gail.

>> It sounds like many of you are already working with these children. If you have specific suggestions as we go along, show them in the chat.

>> Tell us about this recent child migration cycle please Jennifer.

>> Thank you for including me in this event. I am excited by the participants I see coming across the list.

>> We provide the presentation to unaccompanied children in the U. S. We wanted to give you a sense of the numbers of what we're talking about of kids arriving here unaccompanied. Children have always been arriving unaccompanied here. Traditionally the numbers were consistent usually between six and 1000 every year. Those numbers crept up in 2011 and 2012. As you can see from this chart it reached a peak in fiscal year 23rd 2014 where we had Sixty-eight thousand children apprehended at the border because they had no parent or legal guardian with them. The numbers dropped a little in 2015. This is attributed to the increase in immigration apprehension and deportation. Fewer children could reach the border. That does not mean the number of children leaving decreased at all. This past fiscal year, 2016, which is over a couple days -- over in a couple days will be the highest number ever. This going year 2016 even though this only goes to March will be higher than it was in 2014. It is a new record this year. The number of children fleeing their homes has not abated at all. It continues to increase. The numbers does the number recognizes that enforcement could not keep up in Mexico in 2014.

>> Why all of a sudden so many children? People who do research and talk to the migrants themselves are consistently siding causes for why the children are leaving. One of the real reason -- reasons? It is organized crime as well as a higher levels of intrafamily violence. From what the children are telling us the crime and gang violence in these countries have escalated so much that they make life unbearable. When we talk to kids before they said gangs put pressure on children to join the gangs. Now it really is a join or die policy. There is no choice. A lot of the kids are talking about corrupt police officers. There is very -- there is a very weak rule of law in these countries. Many police units are controlled by the gangs. They have targeted children at schools and preventing them from getting to school work they targeted children whose families might be in the United States and have resources. Honduras has become one of the most dangerous countries in the world. Girls often report facing similar reasons for migrating. On top of that they are facing race and gender based violence in their home countries. A lot of these gangs and drug -- trap -- traffickers are using gang rape to force them into compliance. They are also using the threat of rape as a tactic to get money.

>> The reasons why the children are leaving are both because of generalized violence and specific violence directed at them..Good because that could be because of their youth for their families and whether families are living.

>> Finally, when I say they are coming here for protection -- for protection, many of them have no caretaker at home. They may have been targeted or killed by organized crime. I think the compilation of economic hardship really tie into the increase for violence. That is pushing many children from their homes.

>> Can you hear me ask

>> Thank you for inviting me. I am happy to be here. I want to talk about the trauma of journey. The journey from Central America to the United States is over 1000 miles. It may take children weeks or months sometimes. Sometimes the large number of children have relatives to pay [ Inaudible ] to bring them to the United States. Other children don't really have anybody that can pay for the journey. They just take off. Sometimes they have money and sometimes they have no money or resources. They hope they make some money on the way to the United States.

>> The dangers of the journey are tremendous. They endure multiple and dramatic experiences. They may have accidents or into violence, Rob release -- robberies, extortion. There are people that take their money. They have starvation and dehydration and exposure to extreme temperatures. They usually come with no belongings and they are confused and weary. Very often, the children get into very horrible conditions and troubles. Sometimes they take buses. They have a cargo train where the children can hold on for dear life to cross the border between Guatemala and Mexico.

>> One of the children told me it was raining so hard it was hard to hold on to the bars. They strapped themselves. They know if they fall asleep they can fall off and be killed.

>> I'm having a little trouble hearing you talk and you hold your microphone a little closer to your mouth?

>> Thank you.

>> Some children don't survive the trip. Other children disappear. There are gangs that kidnapped the children. Other children make it successfully. They either surrender to border patrol or are captured by border patrol. In addition to those dramatic [ Inaudible ] they also come not only with whatever [ Inaudible ] they also have separation from whoever was there care giver or their relatives are the people that they live with. The separation, there is a lot of grief about the separation. Oftentimes it is superimposed from earlier separations. They leave the child with a caregiver or neighbor and then the children come to join them later.

>> [ Inaudible ] you can see for Central American children, they are most often separated from the mother, from the father, or for both. This separation is, 15 5%, the separation was for more than five years.

>> Jennifer, do what it tells a little bit about the kids who are brought involuntarily?

>> Sure. In general, when children are making a decision to migrate there is a whole host of reasons. There is also a whole host of ways in which the decisions are made. Some children make their own decision. Some of them are sent for by parents, parents help make that decision for them. Some are caught up with unscrupulous coyotes. They think that they are paying for safe journey and end up in a situation where they are going to end up in some sort of forced labor. Some children have no idea that they may be in some trafficking situation. They may not have experienced the forced labor yet but they are destined for it. The trip is often expensive and hard to -- across a lot of money to pay for guided journey to the United States. Many children may end up in some sort of indentured servitude because they owe so much money. The kinds of cases that we have seen really run the gamut between the kinds of labor exploitation that we have seen for sex trafficking. There was a big article that came out last year

the cause a lot of attention. In Ohio there was an egg farm that was rated. There were unaccompanied children who had entered the United States and released to sponsors and were actually released to traffickers and ended up in a forced labor situation on an egg farm in Ohio. In other cases we have seen, I had a client who was a girl who was released to her brother. Her brother was making her pay back the expenses by being his servant. She was not allowed to leave and was doing domestic work. It is really the gamut. Sometimes the children know what they are headed for and sometimes they have no idea. You can imagine as in any other situation, there are many people that are being exploited that may not realize the severity of the situation when you first meet with them.

>> I will talk a little bit about what it actually looks like if a child is apprehended at the U. S. border. There are many ports of entry along our border and airports. Those of the official ways you would enter the United States. Is a run by customs and border protection officers and field operations. That would be airports, the blue uniforms to greet you when you fly and internationally. Also the ports of entry around the U. S. Mexico border. There is a bridge and that you can drive or walk across. Then their children the China cross between the ports of entry. The entity responsible is border patrol. Those of the green uniforms. You will see them on TV or down on the border. Those the ones who monitor between the ports of entry. Some children are present themselves right at a port of entry and asking for protection and asylum or some sort of protection saying they are scared to go home. Then there are other children who are either by themselves or with a guide or a coyote who are trying to enter undetected between the ports of entry. If they are apprehended, it will be by border patrol. When they are apprehended or they don't have proof of legal status or permission to enter, they will be brought to a customs and border protection short term hold facility. They will be fingerprinted and questioned and a determination will be made if they are on accompanied. These of the facilities that you may have heard referred to as ice boxes or [ Inaudible ]. They are small concrete cells. They are often kept cold and even more so for somebody who may be sweaty from -- from being in the desert or have been out -- outside for many days. They should not be held there for more than 72 hours. In the summer of 2014 we saw images of kids piling up at those stations. The numbers caught the government offguard and they were not prepared for such large numbers. Now generally the children are getting out of those facilities in about 72 hours. They are sent immediately to the office of rapid sheet resettlement. That is part of health and human services. They are responsible for the care and custody of all unaccompanied children.

>> Every single child who is determined to not have permission when apprehended are counted -- encountered is put into removal proceedings. Every single child is given their own case. That means that the child is 17 1/2 and it will be given its own case. If they are two years old, they will also be deemed unaccompanied and have their own immigration case. Their own removal proceeding. Unfortunately, because the government provides a rate of somebody to bring their own attorney to court, children are not given an attorney that is paid for by the government. Many of these children have to find their own attorney. Or private attorney paid for by the child or a family member. The child is responsible for bringing their own attorney to the proceeding. Right now, there are only about 15% of the children going to court to defend the cases to have representation. As you can imagine, the immigration court process is incredibly intimidating. Immigration law is complicated. The proceedings happen in a language that most children do not speak. 90% of the children without attorneys are ordered deported. They cannot go through the process without a lawyer. With no it showed -- with no attorney [ Inaudible ].

>> What this looks like is a child standing in front of an immigration job -- judge.

>> It looks like a courtroom. You have the government prosecutor who is a federally trained government attorney. You have a judge who is in a black robe on the bench. At the other table you would have a child by themselves. The courts have interpreters if the child speak Spanish. The interpreter will translate. They may not translate everything that is happening but I can tell you yesterday I was in court and watched a very young girl sitting there holding her lunchbox that had on a and else from frozen on her lunchbox. The judge was asking her questions like you understand the charges against you, do you have any objections to me marketing these charges as Exhibit 1. This is a very young girl. The interpreter asked those questions and she would respond and say yes. As you can imagine, that is not exactly due process without an attorney there.

>> Backing up a second, you mentioned the icebox, could you explain what that is?

>> These are the short term holding facilities under -- run by customs. When apprehended a child, when they make the initial apprehension they bring these children back to holding cells which are very cold, small cells. They hold the child there while they determine where the child is from, how old they are, and if they are indeed unaccompanied. If they are, they must call Health and Human Services and say we have a child here for you and you need to come pick them up. They are the ones who have the responsibility of the care and custody of unaccompanied children. They still process that case like any other case of an adult. It still starts the pepper -- paperwork for deportation proceedings. They will be sent to a different shelter run by different government agency.

>> It is called icebox because it is run by immigrations and customs and because they are very cold?

>> They are very cold. They are cement cells, they have no beds, the lights are on 24 hours a day. The children often report being given food that is cold or microwave burritos. There is a toilet in the cell but there is no privacy. You have to go to the bathroom in front of everybody. The door is locked in there is a window not to the outside but to the main area where the agents are. They can look in to be monitoring what is going on. There are no mattresses are beds. Sometimes the children are given mylar blankets. Those aluminum looking blankets. That is not always the case. Many children report freezing conditions and being very uncomfortable.

>> Before I move on to [ Inaudible ] you will all get the PowerPoint. Rather than use the chat box axing -- axing -- asking for those, let's use that to share.

>> Tell us what you have seen.

>> Last year I visited Pennsylvania. There is a detention center. It is quite small. Let me tell you, [ Inaudible ] these are not child friendly settings. They have a complete lack of privacy, including in the bathrooms.

>> Can you get a little closer to the microphone?

>> Is that better?

>> Yes.

>> The physical conditions are really very difficult. There is a very strict and harsh [ Inaudible ]. You have to eat at certain times, sometimes that is difficult with babies and little kids. They have [ Inaudible ]

children are not allowed to go outside lots of the time. They have a lot of supervision and constant surveillance. They don't have medical and mental health services. When they do, we heard the case in which children, hundreds of children work given a hepatitis A vaccine. Children have fevers and the medical personnel will tell them to give them water and not really taken seriously. Mothers complain a lot about the surveillance in which every 15 minutes they get a flashlight that wakes him up because they are checking them every 15 minutes. That is very hard for the children. Also, many children especially the young ones are very frightened about being there and are very confused. They want to be with her mother. The mothers tell us that if security comes, every single time that the child comes to the mothers bed they take the child back to their own bed. Sometimes that happens many times during the night. It makes the child more distressed and more upset. The problem with the family detention is they are all best all these conditions exhaust debates -- exacerbates the problem. It is hard to feel safe or free. People just want to take care of their children and have them go to school and learn and take advantage of their legal services If they have them and be able to also collect their minds to talk about their fear of returning which is so important for their ability to stay in the United States. It is not a very safe place to go.

>> Some people are asking what has been done to try to provide better services and more blankets and all of that kind of thing for these children. I know you're involved and testified to Congress. Do want to share what is being done?

>> Family detention, they go after they have been detained at the border. This is a different kind of setting. They have beds in large rooms where they have families together. Our complaint has been about the lack of cultural sensitive management of the families. They really do not pay attention to the people's needs and for their guidance and religion. They do not take care of the different patterns of males that are from the cultures. Some people tend to have lunch that is heavier than dinner. Here they are forced into different patterns in different routines that are culturally insensitive. Another thing has to do with the lack of staff that speaks the language of the detainees. Very few speak Spanish, if any. The medical and mental health services use the translation through the phone. It is hard for them and it is hard to establish a relationship with someone when they are using a phone to translate.

>> What has been done is that we have been bringing these issues again and again. There is a task force that has been created to develop a [ Inaudible ] informed program. I think that is going to be tried in it couple of the centers. In terms of having staff that will train the personnel to really think about the special needs of someone who comes with such a history of trauma and such a sensitivity for [ Inaudible ].

>> From my perspective, I have been looking at the legal and. It is all based employees. All the people providing mental health services are employed by ice. From that perspective got documenting the mental health problems will help them with their immigration. They are not necessarily -- they are caught between a rock and a hard place. We can come back to this. I know y'all have a lot of questions about what is going to be done about this. It is terrific that you want to do stuff but let's get through the overview.

>> Jennifer tell us a little bit more about how this works.

>> Sure. To add to the confusion, initially you have customs, they run the ice boxes along the border. If it is an adult or a family unit, they go to ice. That is what you just heard about. For unaccompanied

children, if a child is unaccompanied. They have not reached the age of 18, they don't have any legal status of the United States and have no parent or legal guardian available to care for them at the moment of apprehension, they must go to a shelter run by the office of refugee resettlement. That is part of Health and Human Services. Homeland security made them responsible for the care and custody. They maintain a network of shelters and foster care programs all over the country. They currently have 9200 beds around the country. They run for different kinds of facilities where they place the children. They run on a continual him of least secure and most secure. You would have the least secure being short-term foster programs. You might have pregnant or their team -- parenting teens that might go with a foster family and during a day to a federal facility. You have shelters or staff shelters and then you have secure facilities which is when the government rents generally a wing in a juvenile job. We have one here in Northern Virginia. The Justice Hall, wondering of that is -- one wing is for children. The government will hold children, they are all in deportation proceedings, there are responsible for the care. They hold them in their own facilities until they can find a sponsor willing to care for the child. That might be a parent, extended family member, it might be a friend or good Samaritan willing to take care of that child while they go through the immigration court process. They have to go through some sort of background check with the government. Then the child can be released to the care of the sponsor while they go through the court process. That could be several years. They -- the majority of them are released to somebody here in the United States they -- United States. Generally children are out of OR custody in 10 to 30 days.

>> Can you generalize about the difference [ Inaudible ]

>> The court process determines -- it varies wisely -- wildly -- if they are applying for relief, it could be something you have to go to several different courts and it is a long process. It could take years. Immigration courts are severely backlogged in the United States. For some children it could be years before they have a resolution to their immigration court case.

>> If you don't have a lawyer, you probably are going to know [ Inaudible ].

>> Exactly. If you don't show up to court got your ordered deported immediately.

>> Before we go on, I know some of you have a lot of questions. It looks like there are people on the chat you have a lot of experience in this. I appreciate you taking the lead and answering some of those very specific questions what we go through this. At the end we will come back to some of those.

>> Tell us more about what happens when they are released.

>> I will tell you that in 2014 OR are conducted homeless studies for 2.5% of the children released. They gave [ Inaudible ] 27% of the children they released. In 2015 oh are our increased -- ORR [ Inaudible ]. There are a large number of children who live with a relative or sponsor and get no services. As Jennifer mentioned earlier, in many cases the older teenagers, starting at age 11 or 12, they have to be economic contributors in the family where they go.

>> Once again, can we get your desk get you a little bit closer to the microphone?

>> There is also a great risk with sponsor homes. These homes have families that have little structure and may have no English at all. Sponsor homes are a greater rate of neglect. The integration with the family is very complicated. Sometimes the parents have American children. Sometimes there are other

people in the family and they have caregivers or they have ideas of the mother or father they have not seen for many years. Integration can cause a lot of family difficulties. But we have found as well is that the mental health services that these children so desperately need are rarely [ Inaudible ]. The children are sent to school or put to work as if life is as usual. The mental health issues are not given the proper services.

>> Okay. We set the stage. At this point, either those who have been detained and eventually released or have managed to get here without being detected, they have also experienced many kinds of trauma. Now we will get into what they need and what you can do. It is going to be at this point that most of us will be encountering them.

>> Tell us with these children need work

>> The children need medical attention. We don't know whether they have had accidents or injuries or whether they had any before the journey. They need counsel. They need school enrollment. They need to have educational assessments. Sometimes they are placed in a growing -- grade where they are supposed to be by their age. They make come with different foundations. Sometimes they could have problems in a school. Sometimes in rural errors there is only one class for children of all ages. We need to know the specific needs of the child instead of just putting them in the great that they are supposed to be and in English as a second language.

>> We also want to know about referrals to child protective services.

>> Adults that work with children who have migrated had that should be very attentive to find out if they are free and safe. They need to get normalcy, need to get a group of peers and language support. The reason I put the mouse slows hierarchy of needs, no sometimes we need the children need to feel safe, they need hygiene, they need shelter, need better food, we focus much on that. People may say, well you know but it is better than they have in their country. If we think about the hierarchy of needs and we know that this is psychological and safety needs are at the basis of everything else, then we know that we -- without those kinds of safeties and fulfill you -- fulfillment of needs it would be hard for the children to learn and prosper and be able to have a sense of belonging and to grieve and to actualize their potential.

>> I just wanted to affirm what you probably know about working with immigrant children. They need holistic services. They need control over their life and have a sense of autonomy and being able to make decisions. They need to be experts about their own life and what they might need and what would benefit them. They also need medical services, mental health, sexual violence and trauma. They need to have safety, language competence and feel like they will have a place with cultural sensitivity so that they can come from behind and feel safe. This would be what would help them for their psychological integration. The research really says that immigrants really prosper if they are treated [ Inaudible ]. They are resilient. We need to allow them to actualize the potential.

>> That is terrific. Are we ready to move on? Okay. I wanted to address something that someone has been raising. You really can't assume that any -- this is a ruled that I have used to 35 years. You could never send them to a service or agency on their own. Have no idea what is going to happen. They might call ice. All of you out there, you probably already do this with many of the people you work with but it is more important with these folks. They are trying to learn the system and how the system works. You

are the ones who know how to navigate that best how to navigate that. You need to make sure it is safe for them. You will have to set that up for them. You might have to help them find their way through the interpretation. People are back and forth on the chat box about child protective services not having the skills that they need to deal with this. It is a challenging task. If you are not involved in it right now, I think you will find from other sources [ Inaudible ] I think many of the people involved in this can help you figure out the people you need to partner with to be able to help effectively. If nothing else, please go back and educate others. If you are [ Inaudible ] explain who you are, you're not part of the government. You tell -- they don't have to pay you for services. It is your job to help them. Anything they tell you will be confidential. Don't assume they know anything about how our system works. -- Our systems work.

>> It is your job to accompany them on their journey through our system and help them and debrief them and figure out what the next step is they need to take to navigate the system. As you do your work I am sure, be patient and empathetic and constantly have conversations back and forth. Never assume -- when you ask them if they understand and another had, that does not mean that they know. Make sure that they repeat back to you what they know. Many of them want to please you. They don't want to take your time. Making sure they understand what their options are and what their -- what you are telling them may take a bit of time. If you promise something, make sure you follow through. These people have been lied to through out their lives. Promises are often not fulfilled. They can't trust anybody. Hopefully you are going to be the first people that they encounter here that they can trust.

>> So, some examples, I'm sure you can think of these. [ Inaudible ] get involved in work on this. Connect them with -- figure out everything they need. I'm sure you all have a job and a holistic approach to working with generally -- with children generally. You can't just pick one, like the legal needs and only focus on that. If you really want to accept your goal and affected correctly have to make sure the other needs are met. Identify and help us connect with them. If they have parents help their family connect with them.

>> Fighting interpreters. You have to be creative. In the immigrants rights world many of us don't have the luxury of having people that are trained to be interpreters. There aren't a lot of people. You can be creative about how to do that. Years ago we trained survivors to become advocates for other immigrant survivors. They could then provide interpretation and you can get certified interpreters.

>> If you don't know lawyers that know these cases, we can help you do that. Don't assume that because someone is an immigration lawyer they know how to deal with survivors or do humanitarian relief. Don't assume that they will tell you if they don't know. I am sorry to say that is true. That is really important to be connecting with the community of immigration lawyers and advocates that -- there are people in the immigration system that [ Inaudible ] they are fabulous. You need to be working with those in that population who have been trained in this area. Additionally, it is vital that you help them navigate the civil court system. They probably come from systems where women may not have access at all. They may not know that they have the option.

>> Any other suggestions Jennifer?

>> Yes. I always recommend that the adults try to be kind. They need to be strong and collected. You want to be a role model of the strength that they also have. You need to empower them. I also recommend that when you have an opportunity got you make a statement that will restore the moral order. Let them know when something bad happened to them it was wrong. That should not have

happened. They have a right for something different and we all need to work towards that. I recommend that as well.

>> In some cases it's illegal in this country. Here's a question for you that I'm going to read to you. [ Inaudible ] many of us think these questions are not necessarily appropriate for children and young adults. [ Inaudible ] there's also a question about culturally relevant and [ Inaudible ]. What you suggest?

>> Never generalize. I've seen many cases where the children come and they get them into groups and into schools and they generalize and the children become traumatized. Every case is so different. Their children who are so resilient. They feel ashamed or resentful that they are put into a group with other kids that are out of control. Every case really needs to be treated individually.

>> Okay. Maybe, there are some tools that you know that people can use?

>> Sure. With people working outside of immigration system I think it is important to know that there will be kids living in our communities who are still going through the process, the court process or may have completed the process or maybe have not even encountered officials. There are many children that were not apprehended. They may not have been in the process. They may all be eligible for immigration relief. There are things that might make you eligible for relief based on what happened to you in your home country. Or what happened to you in the states. It is important to know that and communicate and make sure that you seek in this immigration counsel for the children. Thereof questions popping up about schools. This up in court a long time ago decided that even if a child is undocumented and does not have legal status in the United States, have a right to go to school and get a public school education. The Department of Education has guidance about schools -- to schools about this. That is not all trickle down to school district around the country. It is helpful if people need to go on to the Department of Education website, you can get those materials. They have an office of civil rights. If you have complaints about how children are unable to access school or having trouble staying in school, anyone over 18 can file a complaint. The Department of Education civil rights does not have to be apparent. If you are an advocate working with the child and feel like they are having problems in school where there is some kind of civil rights violation got you can follow complaint for them. Both teachers unions have done a lot of work and advocacy work on behalf of these -- this population.

>> They could also be helpful.

>> Okay. Are we ready to move on?

>> Sure.

>> I am going to we don't expect you to be immigration experts. The idea is that when you are assessing the needs of the children and the parents it is helpful to ask a few questions to figure out if there may be some form of immigration status benefit available to them.

>> Most of them are not aware. A couple of the questions you can ask our did you come on your own, voluntarily where you brought in by someone else were you kidnapped until you were in the United States? That is -- there is money for survivors of human trafficking. You might want to know if they had been exposed to crime. It's going to a little bit more or a couple of the ones that are coming up but most with the child population. A question that I thought of to figure out about special needs of juvenile status is is that they come alone. What is the status and other good questions people can ask your client

go that is a form of immigration relief. It is protection for children who have been abused, abandoned or neglected. That has by one or both parents. You might even have a child who is living with a very loving parent but is the other parent ever abuse them they might be eligible for this relief. To get this, it is very tricky. You have to start in the state court. The state court processes it and then goes into the immigration proceeding. You need a lawyer to help you through those processes. It is important for people to know that this was created because there were social workers realizing that they had children in their care who did not have immigration status. The government had been taking care of them and they were about to turn 18 and be released on their own innate had no immigration status. This was a way to address that and make sure that those children were protected and taken care of and to stay here. The law was changed to make it so that it could be any child who suffer that abuse by one or both parents. You will have a lot of children who are living with one parent who may be eligible for that form of relief.

>> Before you move on, the fact that they are living with apparent doesn't mean they can't apply for that?

>> Exactly. There a lot of quirks all over the country. The federal law says it can be one or both parents. It is important to have an attorney who understands the local jurisdiction and they can advise you on what that would look like in your jurisdiction.

>> Okay. The other [ Inaudible ] his asylum. If they fled domestic and sexual violence that might be an option for them. Can you tell us a little more about that?

>> I saw that earlier -- earlier question about refugee children. The terms of refugee and asylum are very confusing. A refugee is someone who is not safe in their home country. They are process and they are referred to come to the United States. By the time they get to the United States they already have permission to stay in the United States. Some children it sounds like that some of you are dealing with have you refugee status when they come over here as an accompanied refugees children. They have a whole host of psycho social needs and physical needs when they get here. There other children who are here and asking for protection. The government then goes through the same process and requirements that a refugee does. It is someone who fears prosecution on account of one of five grounds. There would be children who oftentimes were persecuted because of their membership of a family Or of a group Children who don't want to be recorded by gangs. There is a big world of case law on that. This is international protection. It is the government saying you don't have to go back because you are not safe there.

>> Are there any free legal services for these people?

>> Yes. There is a patchwork around the country. Because there is no paid, free, government counsel for children, what has been established is a patchwork of private and a little bit of federal money. There is a network of organizations and educators providing free services for children. You can find them I see somebody put the justice.gov provided a list up there. Those are providers who have been screened by the government and the government is saying these are people who can often provide services. Kids in need of defense has 11 offices across the country. You could go across -- go to the website and look at the referral information. There are many healthcare providers in different entities who typically serve immigrant populations who may have list of trusted attorneys who might do free or reduced cost for

this population. You will find some federal referrals and some local referrals probably through word-of-mouth in your community.

>> Them and to that. Alex put up the link. This is one of the coordinating organizations for that. We do training for those people. There is a legal directory there. It is some humanitarian relief. We've been doing this for 20 years. We have a good network of pro bono attorneys who specialize in working with women and children who are survivors of domestic and gender violence.

>> They are out there. They are really overworked.

>> It might take a while.

>> There been a question as whether we can get into some of the [ Inaudible ]. I'm afraid we can't during this training.

>> Are there any particular resources on cultural process best specific services and tools in that kind of thing.

>> The other thing is for the children, that is for children that are not coming from Central America. Many of those children, not all but many are coming as refugees. They were processed or coming with status. Generally if they are on -- unaccompanied, they will go into the URM program. They can stay there until they are 21. They live with families. They have, I think R13 sites around the United States for these children. When they are resettled they live with foster family. It is administered through the federal government. The two organizations that run these programs, one is the Lutheran immigrant refugee services The other is the U. S. conference of Catholic Bishops. Those of the two entities that run these programs throughout the United States. You can go on their website to learn more about it. Once the child is hooked up with these programs, they provide all sorts of mental and physical health services to the children along with the foster care and foster home. Some people refer to it as the Cadillac of foster care. It is a small program. Most of the children are coming in through that program.

>> The cows that are coordinating will collect all the links possible and we will get them out to everyone afterwards along with the slides.

>> I am very excited about the dialogue that we have going on. It is fascinating. They have such a wealth of knowledge.

>> To wrap up my part, I wanted to remind everyone that these are children. Sometimes it is hard for us to keep that in mind all the time as we're working with them. Many of them have a history of having been independent. They have become so strong and resilient but what happens is that their brain is really not completely developed. Their judgment skills are still development -- are still developing. They are immature. This is compounded by the effect of trauma. I have heard that the mothers would complain that the children were depressed. The children were even saying I want to die, want to go back home. When we mentioned this to the mental health providers they said that is not true. The children sometimes play. Of course they play. Not everybody even those who are depressed are completely depressed 24 hours a day. It is so complicated. People may have other issues such as memory or difficulty with depression, violence guilt. A lot of children that I saw were biting their nails and picking on their skin until there was blood. [ Inaudible ] they will have flashbacks and night Bears. It is important to remember that these issues are issues of trauma for children who are developing and this could be

tricky to identify. When they themselves do not acknowledge being traumatized or feeling vulnerable. Next I talk about the stages of recovery and what Judy Herman has said compass of the model I like a lot, the experience of psychological phenomena --, the -- trauma is with the creation of new human connections. It is easier to heal from bad experiences. It is hard to heal from that -- it is harder to heal from people that violate us. We want to focus on the safety of the relationship that the children have so that they can reconnect and regain that commonality.

>> Last, I want to tell you very quickly about a story of a child that I worked with. Maritza, her mother paid a lot of money for a to the United States. The mother and father, even though they were separated, they pooled their money -- they pooled their money to bring their children here. She had a fairly good trip she came in a car. She set best slept in hotels. She passed the border. When she came to the United States, she was released to her mother even though her mother was not documented. When married said came to join her mother at her home, she found out that she is not seen her mother in 10 years. Her mother left when she was nine-month old. They really did not have a relationship Maritza had an -- a vision of what it would be like to have her mother. She found that that she found that her mother was working very hard and had two jobs. Her mother had a -- also had a five and six-year-old and she needed to take care of the children. They started having a lot of difficulty and fights. It ended up that Maritza was kicked out of the house. Maritza went to live with an aunt who was a single woman. One day Maritza went to school and her aunt was selling her. The aunt had made an arrangement with a 35-year-old when Maritza came home from school and she was not there to become romantic with her. With the mother said in what moderate the said was that he wanted to be her boyfriend and have a relationship with her. Maritza was removed from the school. She went to a foster home. By the time I saw her she was having trouble learning English. That is not surprising. All these things were happening in her life. She was a very smart kid. We really started working and got her tutors to help her with the language. She was catching up with map and some of the things that she learned differently. Muddies the started developing -- Maritza started having hobbies. She was working in plays in school and it is a story of hope and self reliance and determination. A lot of these kids have a very good attitude toward the U. S. They want to make it. I think that is one of the things that we need to keep in mind. They really give kids thus these kids are hungry for a family. They have high aspirations. They really strive toward doing better.

>> That was just my story.

>> That was great. It illustrates the fundamental point where making. We are giving you a lot of bad news but with your help, these children and mothers and families can thrive. Ladies who are running this What kind of questions do we have for the last?

>> I'm going to put up the slide and then move it to the point of do have some common questions that have been coming up that you would like us to address?

>> This is Jennifer. I don't know that there are common questions. There are a lot of resource questions that people are asking about how to get the help they need. There were a few questions around schools and is there training and support for schools? Additionally, I think we can open it up to the larger audience if there are some broader questions. Maybe not so much resource questions. Other questions people have on any of the information we have shared? I would invite you to put those in the chat box.

>> I did see a question about [ Inaudible ] that is something I have spent some time on. If you have questions about that got contact me. I don't think you will get a straightforward answer any place else.

>> Did you want to highlight anything in particular, Jennifer.

>> We are constantly recruiting attorneys who want to take cases pro bono. If you go on our website you can see where our offices are in the process for expressing interest and maybe getting some training and taking a case pro bono. We have a very robust pro bono program. Our attorneys actually serve as mentors to pro bono attorneys. When you take a case you're not just handed it to yet and we never -- and you never hear from us again. As I said at the beginning there is a great shortage of lawyers for all these children. Only 15% of the kids have lawyers we're anxious to train and mentor new attorneys interested in this area of law. As Gail said, it is rewarding to see these children and hear the stories of what they have lived and then how quickly you can get them to a safe place. It is quite remarkable and encourage you to look at that. Might go the other thing is educational resources I mentioned the office of civil rights at the Department of Education. They also have different pockets of resources and funding for schools that are engaging with large communities of English learners most schools also have Coordinators prove they act that protects homeless children. Because of the definition of homeless, many children and recent arrivals are going to be -- might fit that category. The Coordinators actually have tools and resources to help those students and help place them and get them think that they might need. That is another fantastic resources -- resource that all school districts should have.

>> We are getting a couple of questions let me give you one more thing about the general resources that we can provide. I think it is important that we start partnering with the mental health community. If you are interested in not only learning how to do this work one on one or how to change policies that contact me, are you willing to help with that?

>> Sure.

>> Great.

>> A couple of questions that came up. I may not know the answers but here we go. Can you address access to a safety net and legal services?

>> The basic attorney general said many years ago services necessary for the life and safety of a human being are accessible to everyone. Beyond that things like benefits are extremely restricted. And if you want to address any of that.

>> The one thing I would highlight I think, those in deportation there are restrictions in where immigration officials can conduct enforcement actions. They're not supposed to get people at police stations or schools are courthouses. There are memos on that you can find on the Department of Education website. That clarifies a little bit more where people should feel safe. It is generally in places where you need to access for protections -- protection. Hospitals, schools and the like.

>> Things like shelters are considered necessary to life.

>> If you have specific questions, feel free to get in touch with me and Jennifer.

>> Someone asked, it sounded awful but you talked about family members who sold her prostituted other family members. Is there a way for them to be prosecuted or held accountable?

>> Sure. There are protective trafficking walls that have severe consequences for those charged and convicted of human trafficking. The toughest thing is for them to get access to someone they can get them out of the system. The other thing is that oftentimes in order for there to be a conviction, the victim has to comply with law enforcement to help them with the investigation and prosecution. This can be very difficult. This is something that somebody needs social services help car going through the process as well legal help. There are ways. We have very stringent laws against human trafficking. Should a case be discovered in the person gets adequate assistance and due process cover can be severe penalties for those people responsible for that I.

>> Maybe we should end with one of these psychological questions. I don't even understand these.

>> You can take a look at it. Here's a question. Changes in aggression often accompany posttraumatic stress if there were a relationship between Tom and -- trauma and self-hatred that would manifest in the lateral oppression?

>> Sometimes people have difficulties with this. You have children. PTSD can be manifested in violence and aggression and self-destructive acts. That would be cutting and harming themselves. This is a very important thing to take into consideration when working with children. This would be manifested sometimes in Belize, sometimes in difficulties with peers and authority with her parents. Sometimes we need to have a different frame of mind about how we conceptualize the trauma. It is not always the way that we have learned for adults. It might not be flashbacks. For children it could be aggression. That could be also to [ Inaudible ] what was done to them. Sometimes sexually abusing other children. That is one of the [ Inaudible ] one children.

>> I think we have to stop. Can we stay on for a couple more minutes?

>> Niemi explain this. Violence I. Knew see that anyway. We see that in all of these cases where there have been violence in the home or home country. It is very typical of the children in these cases.

>> Can we stay on or do we need to stop?

>> We are at the end of our time. Okay. Get back to us. We would love to do more of this. Thank you so much for all of this.

>> Thank you everybody. I love the presentation I hope we can do it again. There's so much to do.

>> There is. Thank you to Gisele and Jennifer and Gail for this really fantastic presentation and conversation today. Clearly we could spend days together really learning and deepening our work. Thank you so much for your time. Thank you for being with us today. Clearly we had many experts joining us today. Thank you national Council for hosting this webinar force today. I'm going to hand it over.

>> Thank you Jennifer. I want to echo, thank you, thanks for joining us. It was a great webinar. Finally, if you can fill out our evaluation, that would be great. Your feedback is very important to us. The link is on the slide on your screen. Once we closeout the webinar page, or the window, you will be directed to the website for the evaluation. With that, I will close. I hope everyone has a great day. Thank you so much.

>> Goodbye.

>>[ Event Concluded ]