

## **MCHB/DHSPS April 14, 2009 Webcast**

### **Preventing Exploitation of Children and Adolescents on the Internet**

April 14, 2009

JOHANNIE ESCARNE: Good afternoon, my name is Johannie Escarne from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. I would like to welcome you to this webcast entitled "Preventing Exploitation of Children and Adolescents on the Internet". Before I introduce our presenters today, I would like to make some technical comments.

Slides will appear in the central window and should advance automatically. The slide changes are synchronized with the speaker's presentation. You don't need to do anything to advance the slides. You may need to adjust the timing of the slide changes to match the audio by using the slide delay control at the top of the messaging window.

We encourage you to ask speakers questions at any time during the presentation. Simply type your question in the white message window on the right side of the interface, select question for speaker from the dropdown menu and hit send. Please include your state or organization in your message so that we know where you're participating from. These questions will be relayed to the speakers periodically throughout the broadcast.

On the left of the interface is the video window. You can adjust the volume of the audio using the volume control slider which you can access by clicking the loudspeaker icon. Those of you who selected accessibility features when you registered will see text captioning underneath the video window.

At the end of the broadcast the interface will close automatically and you'll have the opportunity to fill out an online evaluation. Please take a couple minutes to do so. Your responses will help us plan future broadcasts in this series and improve our technical support. We're very pleased today to have Mr. Christopher Holloway and Mr. Michael Sullivan. Mr. Holloway is a program manager for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in the U.S. Department of Justice. Mr. Sullivan is the deputy chief of Internet Crimes Against Children task force in the Illinois Attorney General's office. We'll defer questions and answers to the section following the presentations. However, we encourage you to submit questions via email at any time during the presentation. If we do not have the opportunity to respond to your questions during the broadcast, we'll email you afterwards. Without further delay we would like to again welcome our presenters and the audience and begin the presentation.

MICHAEL SULLIVAN: Hello, Johannie, my name is Michael Sullivan. I'm the Internet Crimes Against Children task force commander for Illinois Attorney General's office. A 30 year law enforcement veteran and the author of two books and one training program to protect children from online predators. Chris, would you like to say a few words about yourself?

CHRIS HOLLOWAY: This is Chris Holloway from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. I'm one of a team of four program managers that manage and operate the Internet crimes across the country and the sexual exportation of children programs that include child prostitution initiatives. Human traffickings and programs targeted toward children involved in the sex industry. What we'll cover today based on the requests from the Department of Health and Human Services is a variety of topics around commercial -- child Internet exploitation involving the Internet. On the document that went out in advance of this was a list of purposes that specifically discussed the use of digital

technology in the exploitation of children. I think what you're going to find this afternoon and this morning, depending on where you are at, it doesn't matter what the technology mechanism is, predators will find children regardless of whether or not it's on Facebook, YouTube or instant messaging. For that reason we aren't going to spend a lot of time as the purpose may incline you to believe talking about specific mechanisms but more we want to give you an overview and the ideas of what to look for and be aware of with regard to technology sexual exploitation. We'll talk about the definition of the child sexual exploitation. Secondly, what does technology do or how, in fact, does it endanger children? What do we consider a victim of child sexual exploitation to be? Is it a child, adult, how young the that child, how big is the program? What are we doing to address this problem through an enforcement and prevention standpoint? Next slide. Mike.

>> What we're going to discuss is what is child sexual exportation. For the rest of the presentation we'll be discussing child exploitation as it relates to online sexual exploitation. A definition of that would be the manipulation of children to perform sexual activities for the gratification or monetary gain of the online predator. These different types of manipulations can manifest themselves as child prostitution, sexual solicitation, online solicitation or email solicitation. Those online solicitations can grow to be an in-person meeting and then victimized through sexual conduct in person. Sexual molestation or sexual assault the results of online conversations and an agreement for a meeting, and then also the production or manufacture of child pornography. This can take two forms. It can either be the offender manipulating the child so that while online live streaming video is recorded without the child's knowledge. Or the manipulation of the child to use technology to memorialize certain conduct and then send that images or video to the online predator who, without the knowledge of the child, may distribute that worldwide through many different types of technology available to the online predator.

Next slide, please. How does the technology endanger children? Using technology predators have moved from real playgrounds and school yards to virtual playgrounds. They can enter into the computer onto the Internet and go to these virtual playgrounds where the children are gathering. The same type of grooming techniques that they've used on the playground have just been adapted to fit online. It really doesn't matter what technology the children are using. The grooming techniques have stayed the same. Where on the real playground predators had to come up with a way to begin a conversation with a child. They would walk up with a ruse of dog leash in their hand and ask the child to follow them to go find the dog in order to get them off the playground. Now in the virtual playground what happens is the approaches are even easier for these predators. By going into social networking sites a predator can read the profile of a child. They can read the blogs, they can read communications back and forth between the children and other children to see what is happening in that child's life? That information gives them all they need to make that online approach and start to befriend that child. Also, online predators are not as fearful of being identified, especially through social networking sites. They can use it almost as a roadmap. If they find one real child and look at the friends on that social networking site and they realize those friends are in the same school, that's almost an instant roadmap to two or three or four more real children that they don't have to worry about maybe an undercover persona of a police officer online. Children post way too much personal information. They will sit and talk about what occurred in their life that day and that punishment by their parent. That bad grade in school, that's just an open door for an online predator to come and speak to them. And it doesn't matter what we've seen with the predators as the technology changes, they just go right along with it. They went from the parks and playgrounds to the chatrooms and did the solicitation. When the children moved from the chatrooms to instant messaging they

moved right along with them and left the chatrooms, although some can still be found in that area. They went to the instant messaging with them. When our children moved to cell phones sexual predators went right along with them. The fact is the grooming process can occur much, much more rapidly over a cell phone than it can in an instant message or a chatroom. Now with the streaming video, the texting going back and forth, it's a 24/7 contact between the online predator and our children. Chris.

>> There is another element to this that is incredibly important to understand, the use of child pornography. Specifically in the exploitation of children through online mechanisms. Oftentimes we'll hear about sexing the as the initial -- most of the predators have a predilection toward child pornography. They have used it among themselves and come to the agreement it's okay to sexually victimize children. It's a norm. I'm part of a community of individuals who feel fantasizing about sex with a 5-year-old or a 6-year-old is an appropriate adult behavior. So they've really broken down the barriers of appropriate, normal social interaction through the use of child pornography. In addition to that, they use it as a grooming tool when they deal with children. Not child pornography necessarily, but pornography in general. They will offer pornography to children and say it's okay that you look at this. They try to heighten their sexual awareness and at some point they do introduce child pornography as a mechanism to say look, here is a child having sexual activity with an adult. It's okay in this picture so it should be okay with us. I think it's important to note there are so many different mechanisms by which child pornography can be transmitted. It can go through standard email text messaging attachments, file sharing attachments. One of the biggest areas we found in the law enforcement community is peer-to-peer networks. Most people are familiar with the names like nap star that was the initial mechanism to share music. Now we have 10 or 12 different platforms that are peer-to-peer file sharing environments where hundreds of thousands if not millions of individual users are providing small portions of videos or images and they're trading those images

across this network virtually undetectable, at least they assume. In one environment one platform our law enforcement community works, we have detected somewhere in the neighborhood of 100,000 individual users in the United States sharing child pornography. These are graphic images. Toddlers and infants being sexually victimized. Not the child in the bathtub, the picture of the rubber ducky covering a private part. This is an actual victim of rape or a picture of rape or a video of sexual exploitation. I apologize if I use graphic language that may offend people but unfortunately what we've found is if they desensitize or don't sensitize you to the language appropriately enough it becomes this image of a child in a bathtub when it really is a visual image of a child being sexually victimized. Mike, I'll pass it back to you.

>> Chris brings up a good point. With these videos that are used, the deluge of pornography that is sent toward our children, the live streaming video of an online predator masturbating so the child watches is used to desensitize that child. Sooner or later the online predator will ask that child to mimic that behavior. They'll ask them to disrobe and master bait over live streaming video. They'll use that method or grooming technique to start to build a relationship with the child. Basically a shared, look, if I do this, I could get in trouble. So you have to keep this secret. This is between you and me. I could be in a lot of trouble. The child agrees to it. The predator goes forward with it. Now they've shared that secret. That really was the goal of the predator to begin with. He wants that child to start to feel a bond between the two of them through that shared secret. What is going to ultimately occur is the predator is going to ask the child to manipulate -- or to mimic the behavior and then once the child does it, that shared secret is going to change a little bit. It won't be I'll be in trouble but you're now going to be in a lot of trouble. What we've seen is it grows to almost a ransom or threatening type to you will do what I tell you from now on or I'll out you to your friends or parents. I'll go to your social networking site

and post the pictures of what you've done. The fact is, secrecy is the online predator's strongest weapon against a child. Communication is a parent's strongest weapon. We need to make sure the children realize that they haven't done something wrong, that they can talk to a parent, to a teacher, to a guardian at any time and that when they divulge this it's not their fault. They didn't do something wrong to begin with. It was this manipulation that brought them to this point.

If we could change to the next slide. One of the things that we look at is who are the child predators. I've been doing this for more than a decade and have been involved in over 500 arrests that have taken place in more than a dozen different countries. The only thing that I can tell you for sure is that in general an online sexual predator is usually a male white subject. Other than that, they range in age anywhere from 18 through 65 years of age. They come from all walks, professions of life. We've arrested everybody from every conceivable background that you can think of. There is no set 100% profile that I can give you other than the fact that the majority are male white ranging from 18 to 65 years of age.

If we could go to the next slide. When we're talking about the children who are the children that are being victimized by this, probably the first thing that strikes us, these are not the children that you would think of as the troubled children. They are not the ones that have been in trouble. Sure, there are some of those that are involved in this group but really what we're talking about are children that have not given their parents reason to be concerned for their safety. They've been good students. They've been good citizens in the community. So the parents have rewarded them by buying them the technology. Maybe putting a computer or a cell phone or a digital -- or a video camera or a webcam in their room. That access to the technology is what causes a child to be victimized. They don't have the maturity to understand what can be done with that technology. The fact that they

have unsupervised access to the Internet, unsupervised access to the predators on the Internet. That is what leads to their manipulation. Many times we end up with parents saying I didn't realize I was doing something dangerous by giving my child a computer. They've never been in trouble before. I thought they were safe in their room. That technology basically allows the sexual predators to walk right into the room for that child. One of the grooming techniques basically for this type of behavior is that predators will convince the child that this is a secret between the two of them. It only works when the child won't tell and a parent won't ask. We have to initiate that conversation between both parties. Kids have to know it's okay to come to mom and dad and say I messed up. Parents to know it's okay to ask their children what do you do online. Sit down with your child and ask them to show you how they surf. As a parent, pick your battles. When you go out and your child is willing to show you their my space or Facebook or whatever social networking site they have don't overreact to the content that's on there. If they feel that they can work with you and you can understand why they put something on and it is not really dangerous to your child, don't pick that as a fight. If they've put something that is dangerous, if they've put their full address, if they've put their name and school, where they can be identified explain to them why it's dangerous and remove it. If they're talking to you and showing you they're trusting you not to overreact. As a parent try to get across that maturity that look, information online can come back to haunt you later in life. Information that you put online can be used by other people to find you. Pick the battle that you want to fight or that content that's on the social networking site. If we can go ahead and change to the next slide, Chris.

>> Many of you online may have read articles in the newspaper recently discussing a research finding that basically dismissed the size of this problem particularly with regards to online chat, meaning the research came out and found that the vast majority of the

arrests that were made dealing with online predators were actually interfaces with law enforcement and the predator himself and there wasn't really an actual child at the other end of the conversation. Unfortunately research like that puts people like Mike and I in a very precarious position because we have to then defend to the general public why it is that we continue to set up stings and undercover operations and the fact of the matter is that if law enforcement was not present on the Internet and predators felt more secure with these conversations, then the problem would be explosive. It really is already explosive and there are numbers up on the screen but I'll give you other statistics to give you more of an understanding as to how big of an issue this really is. We'll talk briefly in a few minutes about the Internet Crimes Against Children task force program but one of the ways that we capture information about the size of this problem is through the number of complaints that the law enforcement agencies involved with the ICAC program have to address. In this instance a complaint is any bit of information that law enforcement has to make a decision as to whether or not there is investigative merit. That could be a concerned neighbor calling in saying that I think my neighbor is looking at child pornography. That could be information coming from another law enforcement agency. It could be information coming from an Internet service provider. Any bit of information they have to take time and analyze that data to determine if there is something there to investigate. Since I've been involved with the ICAC program and Internet crimes program in general the law enforcement agencies I deal with have had to review somewhere in the neighborhood of 200,000 individual complaints. That's separate and above from the documented I.P. addresses. For those of you who are not technical. Whenever you lock into a computer you have a string of numbers associated with your address that's basically your address on the Worldwide Web called on Internet protocol address. One of the undercover mechanisms that law enforcement uses gives us the I.P. addresses of all those individuals at any given moment who are sharing child pornography. Over a three-

year period we captured in the neighborhood of five million separate I.P. addresses on a global basis of individuals that at that point in time, that snapshot sharing child pornography. The reason I throw these numbers at you is that law enforcement has to triage. They have to decide which cases are the most important and they have to make decisions on who they are going to investigate and which offenses they're going to target in order to have the greatest impact. Very clear example there are 30,000 known individuals in the State of California currently trading child pornography using one peer-to-peer network. Over and above any complaints that come in from citizens, Internet service providers or other law enforcement agencies. There is no way that law enforcement has the ability to tackle this issue as large as it is. So when we hear reports such as the research that recently was posted about well, it's really not that bad. It's predominantly law enforcement officers with predators. It puts law enforcement in a precarious position. We're justifying our presence here isn't needed any longer and if that message is sent out to the predators they'll be more inclined to come online, which is going to even further increase the amount of work that law enforcement has to do to address this problem. So talking specifically about the statistics that have come from the Internet Crimes Against Children program you can see in fiscal year 2000 and 2008. For those of you who aren't familiar with the Federal fiscal year, it's October through September. In a 24 month period we went from 24 arrests in one year up to over 3,000 the next year. The totality of this program from 1998 is -- the F.B.I. has captured an additional 10,000 individuals and there are other Federal law enforcement agencies and local law enforcement agent east working these sites of investigation that I don't have data for. What the rest of the data here tries to offer to you is to give you a snapshot of how complex this issue is. For instance, if I receive a complaint as a law enforcement officer the first thing I have to do is try to determine from the Internet service provider who is on the other end of that computer. So it's a series of legal steps through judicial process to try to go through the

Internet service provider to find out who owns that I.P. address. Who is that person on the other end of the computer? Then I have to get enough justification for a search warrant. One case may have five, six, ten, 15, subpoena requests, two or three search warrants. Very laborous and time consuming process. The back end is once that information is seized, law enforcement has possession of computers. We not only have to do the forensic analysis in terabytes of information, thousands of bytes of information but we have to be able to put a particular suspect behind a computer at the time the offense took place. It's very challenging and drawn out process. One of our most important statistics is the number of children we've come in contact with. I've heard people say this is a victimless crime, kiddie porn. The fact of the matter is these are children being victimized but sometimes it's not victimization in the sense we think. It is not necessarily pictures being taken but it may be people abusing or neglecting children because they can't bring themselves to sexually abuse the child. What we have been able to determine in the two fiscal years that you have up here is that in 2007 and 2008 nearly 1,500 children have been identified through investigations that are a direct result of child exploitation. These children are children that were found when law enforcement walked in the door who were either being sexually abused, physically abused or neglected in some way. That number in total is somewhere in the neighborhood of 4,000 children in a four to five year period. So the secondary benefits to this program not only identifying the per pet traitors but we are finding children being abused in many different ways.

Can we go to the next slide, please? As I intimated a moment ago the Internet Crimes Against Children program is one element of this fight. There is law enforcement at all levels, Federal, local, international, Mike and I have regular contact with counterparts in United Kingdom, Canada, Australia. We work with inner pool, Euro pool, we have meetings where we talk about the different techniques that are being passed from one

continent to us. We get the second wave of technology whether it's phones or the use of Internet services. But private corporations, non-profit organizations are involved. Whether it's through prevention efforts or it's through reaching out and assisting law enforcement in doing presentations to local PTA organizations, church groups, civic organizations. Private corporations are one I want to offer to you. Several years ago a financial coalition of organizations that run credit card industry banded together and worked with The National Center for missing and exploited children to establish a mechanism that if you try to use your credit card or someone steals your credit card and tries to use it to buy commercially available child pornography, that credit card transaction will be captured, sent to Federal authorities and the credit card will be shut down. So the finance industry has gotten involved and it really has done a phenomenal job of shutting the flow of money and the use of credit cards and online commercial websites for the distribution of child pornography. It has had a tremendous impact on this problem.

>> The issue that we have is getting everyone involved in this, getting all the relationships together from the Federal side on down to that local or city police officer. They can be confronted with the need to investigate a crime of a child that goes missing or is about to be victimized and not have near the assistance or technology to them. In Illinois the Attorney General has over 100 local police agencies affiliated members of our task force. What that means is we can make available to them training and technology so that they can help protect the children in their communities. We can provide Internet safety training at the schools for parents, students and teachers. Just to give you an idea of how quickly this can happen and as Chris is talking about the recovery of children, the Internet crimes task force is set up that no matter where the crime takes place, we can work together very rarely do we ever have the offender and the victim in the same state. We only have part of it. In one case we had an Ohio police officer that went into a chatroom and was confronted

by a user who announced that they ran a day-care center and they were about to molest the children in the day-care center live over the video. He was able to identify the video as being originated from the State of Illinois. He contacted The National Center for missing and exploited children. They helped him get in touch with our office and shortly after he was in touch with our office we were able to identify not only the individual town but the actual address and user that was involved in the notification of the molestation of the children. With the assistance of the local police department, they were able to go to the house, take the person into custody and prevent the further victimization of the children in the day-care center. This is something we get confronted with constantly. As Chris pointed out, unfortunately at times when we go into court ordeal with the media and they ask about what crimes we're seeing they all too often refer to the images or pictures in a light hearted manner or they pass it off as he said as kiddie porn. What we're trying to do is reeducate the public in that these are not kiddie porn pictures. They aren't child porn pictures. What they actually are is documentation of a criminal scene. Crime scene profs. We can say someone who committed this felony who sexually molested this child was kind to sit there and document it for law enforcement and go out on the web and trade it with our cooperation with different agencies law enforcement can see these images and work together to identify where the children are and get them out of that situation. Can we move to the next slide, please? Chris.

>> Thanks, Mike. Our sponsors have graciously given us the opportunity to do some free advertising and we'll take full advantage of that opportunity to talk about the Internet Crimes Against Children task force program. As Mike had indicated, the mechanisms by which people sexually exploit children are varied and while many of you came online today expecting us to talk about Facebook, YouTube, something specific that you might be able to take back with you and at least for the next two weeks educate people in your

spheres of influence about that particular mechanism the problem is that it will date itself in about two weeks. We'd have to be back here in a month to give you updates on the new mechanisms by which people are exploiting children because the technology is ever evolving. The fact is that we're two generations behind offenders ourselves. The average citizen who tries to take advantage of their understanding of new modes of technology that are available will be ten generations behind and never be able to catch up. Having said that, we were very grateful last year when Congress decided to finally authorize the Internet Crimes Against Children task force program funded through the Department of Justice. In short, Congress, while they've given us funding for the past ten years to support the task forces, have never really saw fit to say we officially identify this program and want it to move forward into the future. They passed the protect act. You'll see the citation on the slide. They authorized the ICAC task force program and took the step of requiring the Federal government through the coordination of the Department of Justice to develop a national strategy that is coordinated between law enforcement, all Federal agencies, to finally sit down and determine how we can best address this problem. Not through stove pipes or individual efforts with the F.B.I. or the Secret Service, but as one entity moving forward. One part of that is the Internet crimes program, for which I am a responsible partner in that I manage the task force initiative.

If I can move on to the next slide I want to give you some information about child exploitation. It goes beyond the Internet. We've alluded to this a couple of times in statements made by Mike and myself. This isn't sitting behind a laptop in your family room at home, this is cell phones, PDAs, gaming, X-Box live, X-Box 360. Anything where there is an interactivity where a child may come in contact with an adult we're able to capture, identify and work a case associated with that technology. But it goes beyond just the Internet or the technology interface where the perpetrator is on one side and the child is

on the other side. We're also moving forward is getting involved with cases where children are walking the streets, being forced into prostitution. They're being sold into sexual servitude. At any point that there is a technology nexus, we're asking our Internet Crimes Against Children task force to get involved. In many instances the same child who may fall prey to drug use or other juvenile delinquent behavior is one who could get involved with prostitution or the sex trade. Unfortunately many of the vice police officers and police officers who work in the adult sex industry aren't comfortable or not equipped to deal with technology in dealing with children. So the Internet crimes task force program is reaching out and building relationship if a police officer takes a cell phone, PDA, laptop from a perpetrator we have the ability to assist in that investigation. Furthermore we're assisting not only directly but indirectly on cases involving Craig's list and other networking sites where pimps or exploiters will post pictures for the purpose of selling children for sex. This really does cover the entire constellation of offenses that's a potential mechanism for children to be exploited.

>> Part of the increase in being able to deal with what Christ Chris has just explained we need to help the local agencies get the training. One of the functions of the Internet Crimes Against Children task force is to train local, state, municipal officers, give them the knowledge and the equipment to be able to have a presence on the Internet or to be able to assist in the investigation of a tip that they're given, whether it be a cyber tip from The National Center for missing and exploited children or a lead presented from the ICAC itself. As Chris said earlier using software we can take a look at who is trading child pornography within a state. In my own State of Illinois, there are thousands of individuals that are trading child pornography at any given point in the day. Realistically we cannot arrest ourselves out of this behavior but by helping to educate local law enforcement. Having them go to the school and pass the knowledge on little by little we can educate

children to help them not be victims of new videos and images. We can hopefully help them learn how to investigate these crimes so they can identify the offenders and ultimately make an arrest in what we're doing. Our responses to this type of crime have gotten better and better. As Chris said, it no longer is just whether it's in your city or your state. We work with law enforcement agencies all across the country. Recently we were just involved in one operation that involved 27 people who were molesting their own children live in eight different countries. That couldn't have been done without the partnership between the Internet Crimes Against Children task force and our Federal partners such as Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Postal inspectors and the F.B.I. If we could go on to the next slide. Chris.

>> Thanks, Mike. At the beginning of our presentation you saw a PSA, public service announcement about the project site safe childhood initiative. It was started under the former administration and meant to be a rallying effort to bring all Federal law enforcement, local law enforcement, non-profit organizations together to jointly address child sexual exploitation using technology. Just to give you an idea of how pervasive Federal law enforcement is we provided you a list of all the different agencies, many of which you probably would not assume would be involved in this fight to include the Postal Inspection Service. Who is not listed on this, is also our partner in law enforcement agencies in the Department of Defense. NCIS, Office of special investigations in the Air Force. Army investigators. We have to work jointly and on a global basis to identify private citizen and service members trying to exploit children and you'll hear stories of people going overseas for sex trafficking, Philippines and other parts of the southeast Asia. We also run into the same issue with foreign-porn individuals coming to the United States for reverse sex trafficking in the United States trying to find young girls being offered here as domestic victims of commercial sexual exploitation so it's a vast issue that requires a vast

response and it could not be done without the collective efforts of all the Federal agencies that have law enforcement authority as well as the state and local law enforcement.

If we move to the next slide, what you're seeing now is a map or basically an outline of the Internet Crimes Against Children task force. The most often question I hear how do I know who to report to? Who is in my area? Who is the expert? Whether from mom and dad or from law enforcement saying I've been handed a case, I don't know how to investigate it. How can I get help? That message displayed at the web address that's now on your screen, [WWW ICAC training.org](http://WWW.ICAC.training.org) is an interactive map. Move the cursor to the state you want and it will link you over to the name of the Internet crimes task force commander in that jurisdiction. You'll get his name, rank, agency, phone number and email address so you can reach out to this person and say I need assistance or I need to report something. Probably the biggest thing is how can they get the reports across to us.

If we move over to the next slide, one of our partners in this is The National Center for missing and exploited children. They run the cyber tip line. It's a basic, go to the site. Click on it and it will walk you through the whole procedure to report any kind of situation that you may think law enforcement needs to take a look at. They receive thousands of cyber tips each year and they're sent out to each individual member of the ICAC and through your Federal partners in other areas of the country and the world that may have a child at risk. Once you're on the slide all you have to do is click on the cyber tip line. Click on the little icon. It will link you into the page and you can go ahead and make a report. The biggest thing with this report is it can be anonymous. You do not have to give up your name. The nice thing about it is The National Center for missing and exploited children will take the tip and triage it. They look at what are you reporting, where are you saying this is occurring, where is the victim at? They'll then take a look through their law enforcement on

their site and they have law enforcement from all different agencies. They have F.B.I. agents, postal inspectors, immigration and custom enforcement officers and local ICAC representatives. They'll find a law enforcement representative for where the offender lives and for where the victim lives so that both sides are investigated, the child is contacted and they're removed from being manipulated or possibly harmed and also the offender is worked so we can build a case against that individual. If we can move over to the next slide on prevent. Chris?

>> One thing to finish up with regards to The National Center for missing and exploited children, they are federally mandated dealing with child sexual offenses. You're familiar with them through missing kids.org. The national center does a number of different functions that help law enforcement identify and recover missing children. With regards to child sexual exploitation, particularly Internet related the national center cyber tip line was mandated by congress and if you spend time on the Internet and see the buttons that say report abuse when you're on a website. The national center was mandated to receive all of the tips from the Internet service providers or electronic service providers. AOL, Yahoo, any service provider that you might use, Comcast, earth link, they're required by law to submit any information to the national center that is submitted to them that may link someone who is abusing a child or passing child pornography or using a chatroom to try to exploit a child. YouTube, Facebook, twitter, any organization that you can think of where there is social networking element are an interface where people can interact with one another. Those organizations are required and mandated by law to submit information to the national center and they determine whether or not there is actual criminal -- I shouldn't say that. Law enforcement determines if a criminal activity has taken place. One critical element of this before we get to the point of dealing with offenses is prevention. Unfortunately the ICAC task forces over the years have received so many complaints and

have had to work so many criminal cases that the prevention element has had to take back seat. For those of you in the public health arena I'm sure you're painfully aware of what prevention means. Even if it's something as simple as washing your hands. Unfortunately we don't have the ability to wash our hands on this issue and we have to catch up. Try to put out a prevention message that has an impact at the same time dealing with the deluge of cases waiting for law enforcement to investigation. You'll see statistics community that ICAC has been involved in over the past ten years in presentations. We're reaching close to 200 million individual that have sat in on a meeting and listened to a police officer talk about don't share your information, don't give information on a public website that could be used to locate you, a phone number or address. That's the type of material that the ICAC has provided and we've done it through a variety of partners. The national center being the predominant partner through their initiative is a great site. Very interactive. It is geared towards children of different age groups whether it's pre-school, middle school or high school. Because I'm a Department of Justice official I can't necessarily recommend or give priority to one Internet safety presentation or another. I think they're all good and they all offer something of value and I would certainly encourage anybody interested in taking a look to go to all the web site and find the one that would best meet your needs in the local community.

>> The question we get the most often when we do our Internet safety presentations is how do we get it in my schools? We have the teachers and principals coming out. What you want to do is look at ones like Chris has mentioned, the net smart or the I-Safe. They have a complete K-12 program that they've already put together. The program works on not just the law enforcement issues, although they have a law enforcement component to teach the children. It also works on things like mentoring, getting the children to understand what the online predators are trying to do. And getting the children to be smart

enough. We've all taught our children that when they go out online -- go out in the real world if someone pulls up in a car and ask for directions they shouldn't get near the car. If someone calls on the phone they don't say they're home alone they say mom is busy. What we need to do is teach them to understand the question behind the question online. When the question is asked where is your computer and who uses your computer? They aren't interested in -- they're trying to triage am I going to get caught? The computer is in the family room or in the kitchen, if the whole family uses it, that's probably not one a sexual predator wants to continue talking to. However, if they receive that yes, it's up in the child bedroom, their personal computer and they don't let anyone else use it that's a child inviting a sexual predator to continue that conversation with them. We need to get that type of information across to our children so they realize if someone asks them that question get mom and dad and let them have a conversation with that person.

If we can move to the next slide. When we started, one of the things we talked about is an online sexual predator's strongest weapon is secrecy. The grooming techniques they use do not work if they're out in the open. They don't work if someone else is there to see what is going on. The fact that that they only work when a child won't tell and a parent won't ask. Make sure you sit down and talk to your children. Ask them who they are talking to online. Take the time to go through the buddy list and ask who they are. Take the time to take a look at their social networking site and ask what friends they've added.

Unfortunately one of the down sides to social networking is if your child has a site they don't want to just have a site. They want the most popular site so they add everyone that asks to be added to their site. Talk to them about why that's not a good idea, why maybe making the site private and only letting their best friends is a better way to go. When we're talking about the new threats, the cell phone, the taking of nude images of children and posting them. Make sure your children understand when they are taking these images, it

could be a criminal offense. We aren't talking about arresting children here, certainly. We're not talking about having them register as sexual offenders but they need to be aware of the fact that their actions do have consequences. Ones that may follow them for years and years. Take a time, sit down, talk to the kid. Make sure they know it's okay to come to you and your teachers, let someone know if someone has taken advantage of them online.

>> At 13 you decided to be a rock star. At 16 you decided to be a quarterback. At 25, you married the girl of your dreams. So when did you decide to become a sex predator? It doesn't matter who you are, it doesn't matter what you've achieved. Download sexual images of children or entice a minor online and you have committed a serious Federal crime. You will go to prison and it will ruin your life. Exploiting a minor is a major offense.

>> Well, thank you, Chris and Mike. We do have a few questions that came in via email and I'll also ask people in the room if they have any. The first question, I'm not sure if Chris or Mike would like to answer. Why doesn't The National Center for missing and exploited children ever follow up with referrals? They don't give a tracking number or provide any follow up?

>> The National Center for missing and exploited children through the cyber tip line receives hundreds of thousands of leads and it would be nearly impossible for them to go back to the originator of a particular tip to follow up or inform them as to the outcome of that tip. I will say that from wherever it is that submitted the question you can be guaranteed the information contained in the tip is looked at and scrutinized very thoroughly. They use the information to do a variety of work upfront before it ever gets into the hands of law enforcement. Once it gets into the hands of law enforcement. Unfortunately if

the quality of the information is such it isn't able to go anywhere it simply gets left into the system and hopefully it can be used if another subsequent tip has a linkage to it. The most simple answer to that question is volume. An overwhelming amount of information that comes in on a daily and weekly basis not only from citizens but Internet service providers.

>> The fact is the cyber tips are reviewed and they are sent not only to the national center but they're sent out to the ICACs. They're reviewed. Most it will be an officer or attorney to review it for criminal content. All cyber tips do get looked at and triaged. Problem is you have to remember The National Center for missing and exploited children although they work with law enforcement they aren't a law enforcement agencies. Should we move forward where there might be an arrest or identification of an offender at that right we run into privacy issues until the case is adjudicated.

>> A follow-up question to that. How many of the cyber tip line reports actually make it to law enforcement? Do you have a percentage?

>> I would say 100% of the tips make it to law enforcement. The question is whether or not those tips have substantive information that leads to action. Oftentimes someone, whether it's a private citizen or Internet service provider will submit an email address and we have no way of linking that email address necessarily to any known criminal activity and at that point legal process kicks in and if the legal review cannot justify a subpoena for that subscriber information, then that lead is essentially unusable. It does become part of a system of information that at some point down the line it could be connected to another case and certainly the intelligence aspect of that information is valuable.

>> A question about the victim. What type of follow-up services are provided for children rescued from these situations to assist in their healing process?

>> Mike, do you want to start with the local perspective on that?

>> Obviously once the children are identified and brought into the system there are many different avenues they can take. We'll get them involved with the CACs or advocates at the prosecutor's office so it isn't just we'll prosecute and move on. They're offered different services to make sure that they are taken care of or at least so we can start to get them to understand what they may have done that brought them into this situation and to deal with what the predators have caused them to feel. Some of what oh -- they were manipulated by someone who set out to commit this crime.

>> On a Federal level there was a recent law passed dealing with victims of child pornography and child sexual exploitation captured on the Internet. The reality is is that these pictures and these images, whether it's one captured by a perpetrator on a Facebook page or it's someone manufacturing pornography, child pornography in their own home, they exist in forever and no way they can be erased from the Internet. One of the issues that Federal law enforcement and Department of Justice in our Office of victims of crime have to address is how it is that these children deal with their images being plastered on the Internet from now until eternity. They are given certain rights to be able to come in at the time of sentencing in Federal cases to act as a victim for sentencing enhancement but they're given the opportunity to opt out of it. It's a very good question. Unfortunately when you're dealing with child pornography we don't have a mechanism as of yet to erase these images and we certainly don't have the ability to go to every potential spot in the Worldwide Web and every hard drive to remove them. We have seen in recent

weeks in New Jersey there were several girls who were self-producing and I don't think they necessarily have the concept of forever because I don't know when they're 25, 30, 40 years old they're going to realize -- they realize now what it means to them in their adulthood. Certainly we try to send the message. This is one of the prevention messages that gets delivered on a routine basis. If you put your picture out there be prepared for it to be there forever.

>> Very good point. What are some ways public health professionals can assist in your effort to prevent or identify victims or predators?

>> Make, would you like to handle that?

>> I think probably the first thing that I would suggest is how about helping our law enforcement? One of the things we are dealing with in law enforcement is unfortunately our officers, our prosecutors and computer forensic people have to deal with these images on a day-to-day basis. Some of these images or videos have audio tracks. It's not just seeing it but hearing it. Obviously we would welcome the mental health aspect to come in and help us deal with it. With the children, obviously, through the courts getting to them, getting the children into programs so that they can understand what has been done, helping them to deal with the aftermath of a trial and all of a sudden everyone at school knowing what's occurred to them but also what we need to work with the school system to come up with training classes that teach the children exactly what Chris just spoke about. Even though they may be younger and not fully understand it we need them to get them to realize this has implications for the rest of their life. How do we get that across to the children?

>> To follow up on Mike's comments. In dealing with public health you're dealing with psychology, with psychiatry, the medical profession. I'm assuming your constituency involves counselors at the school level as well as other public health providers who aren't necessarily in the medical field but who will have contact with kids in a variety of different ways. What we've learned through our Child Advocacy Centers who deal specifically with children who are sexual abuse victims is being able to ask the right questions at the time of contact with a mandatory reporter, to include have you had pictures taken of you in ways that made you feel uncomfortable. If you're dealing with a sexual abuse situation and a child is discussing or disclosing they have been sexually assaulted. Ask about cameras, videos, ask about using the computer whether they've had to stand in front of a computer or pose in front of a computer without necessarily having knowledge there is a camera involved in that request. Clearly the issue of trying to get children to disclose the fact that they've been sexually abused in and of itself is a challenge but to try to ascertain whether or not there has been some type of imaging that's done. Some type of capturing of their image. You need to get into the business through policy and practice of including that as part of our standard questioning of children both in physical and sexual abuse cases. We need to get public health professionals to understand that sexual abuse transcends the world that we live in. Meaning it's on the Internet and they need to be comfortable with the fact and deal with the fact that there are very graphic images of small children, infants who are being penetrated by adults and they have to understand the ramifications of that. When you're doing medical exams, do you have a set of standard questions or a set of standard evaluation techniques that you can determine what it is has happened to this child through sexual abuse. Is this being penetrated with a finger, being penetrated by some other device. Asking the questions that are appropriate to determine what the level of abuse was. Clearly the vast majority of you on the webcast are far more knowledgeable than I am on these issues. What we have found particularly in dealing with public health

professionals they aren't always comfortable in dealing with this level of detail particularly when we're talking about sexual abuse of very small children who do not have the ability to report out, who do not have the ability to say somebody touched me inappropriately.

>> Chris brings out a good point. It's common to ask are there pictures and videos talking about someone that mentions a computer, a cell phone or the Internet. What we also need is for the other side to come forward basically the ones that are being victimized by their own family members. You still need to remember to ask during those cases also. Did the family member use a camera, a computer, did they use a webcam, did they record it. Did they use a cell phone and transmit it. We also need to identify those children so that we can bring them in to identified victims as well.

>> Thank you, Mike. A question in the room?

>> Has the task force or anyone else set any training being provided like -- [inaudible] -- family physicians to help them -- [inaudible]

>> It's a very good question and it is not that I'm aware of the training has been done. We do have a very small cadre of physicians, one in particular is Dr. Sharon Cooper, she is a pediatrician, used to be associated with the University of North Carolina. I think she still is. She deals a lot with the morbidity of sexual abuse and has given us some insight on how it manifests itself in pictures. Particularly in court if you have to show pictures of abuse, she's given law enforcement and prosecutors the ability to use the right terminology and identify abuse patterns that are visible in those images for the prosecution purposes but unfortunately the reverse has not taken place. There hasn't been a very good dialogue

with the law enforcement community back to the medical community or the public health community to come to some common ground.

>> Mike, do you have anything to add?

>> You pretty much hit it on the head. We've done some presentations for the nurses just giving them an understanding of what we're dealing with and what we're seeing. But we really haven't gotten deeper than that.

>> Thank you. In terms of reporting, who do you start with? Either local law enforcement, The National Center for missing and exploited children or as far as the F.B.I.?

>> Mike.

>> It really doesn't matter. Just pick one. That's a really good part of the Internet Crimes Against Children task force. If you do report it to the national center it will make its way to one of the ICACs or Federal agencies. If you start with one of the agencies they'll pass it along. We try to work together to follow up on all the leads and tips we get.

>> I'll follow up with that. If you're uncomfortable with the response that you receive from local law enforcement, don't be afraid to go to some other level. I think what most people don't recognize is there are over 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the United States. 50% of those have less than five sworn officers so we have a lot of very small law enforcement agencies who don't necessarily have the knowledge or the wherewithal to be able to handle these investigations and it should never be a matter of pride. They should never say to you there is nothing there if you feel that there should be something

investigated. If that's the case, go to that next level. Find the ICAC in your region, contact them, let them know you've made a report to a local law enforcement agency and that you're uncomfortable with the response that's been received.

>> I know at times local law enforcement agencies may give people the response we can't investigate this. We don't have the manpower or technical ability for it. That's exactly what Chris is saying should be done. Take it one more step up. Don't ever put up with some agency saying we're not technically literate enough to investigate this.

>> Thank you.

>> Can you discuss some of the difficulties you've experienced in reference to combating child sex tourism. Any experience with best practices?

>> I haven't been involved in child sex tourism cases that much. I would be a little uncomfortable speaking to that.

>> I think what we have recognized is what our limitations are from the Internet crimes program. We work very closely with immigration and customs enforcement who are really charged with investigating and apprehending individuals who will travel abroad to try to sexually exploit a child. The most common place to go is southeast Asia or some places in central and South America. If someone is interested in pursuing that further we could get contact information for agents specifically involved with those types of cases.

>> Thank you, Chris. We have a lot of questions. One question is, are child victims entitled to restitution as crime victims?

>> Unfortunately at the Federal level there is no formal restitution process in place for the victims of child sexual exploitation and as you might imagine, most collectors of child pornography, as an example, will have a standard set of images that they collect. It's almost like collecting baseball cards. Everybody wants a base set and they move on to more specialized images depending on what they are interested in. There are thousands and thousands and thousands of people just in the United States, tens of thousands who collect these images and we have no practical mechanism in place to give restitution back to the victims. In many cases, this question raises a very good point, we don't know who the children are. The national center on missing and exploited children, one of their functions is the child victim identification program. That program is set to identify as many children and images of child pornography as possible. I think to this point there are upwards of 4,000 children identified. The numbers of children that are unidentified are in the tens of thousands. It's an ongoing process to try to identify who these children are. Most importantly in time to stop the victimization but sadly what we have seen is children growing up in child pornography. Images starting as early as four or five years old and the capturing of the sexual victimization into early adolescence and teen years and still nobody knows who they are.

>> I think you would have to go on a state by state basis. You may find some states that have a mechanism for restitution for violent crime or a sexual crime of this nature but there is not one that encompasses the entire country.

>> The next question. Is sexting a term the news media came up with and got them some attention. What we consider with the issues we're dealing with is self-production. Basically a child that either takes pictures of themselves or their girlfriend or boyfriend and puts

them up on their social networking site. Maybe has them on their cell phone. The intent behind the image wasn't the creation of child pornography. It was, for lack of a better way, bad judgment. And as an ICAC we recently met most of the commanders were at the meeting and we decided to look at the issue and from a very large point of view we feel that these children have to be treated as victims. They are not offenders. I don't think anyone ever envisioned a 12-year-old taking a naked picture of themselves to give to their boyfriend as something that needed to be registered as a sex offender. The problem that we have with the sexting have taken a step ahead of the law and we have to take a look at it. It's almost where you have to include -- it's not really you want to go there, but an intent. Was this image meant to be a lewd display of this child or just some child that took a picture without thought. That's the issue that I think right now that our legislators have to take into account and decide where do we go with this? Is this something where we're arresting the self-producers?

>> I think the other element to this is what is considered age-appropriate behavior. For those of us who were raised in an era prior to the Internet and cell phones certainly we know of people who had sexual relationships at an early age. The talk of the school is when a 15-year-old girl comes in pregnant and whispered to one another saying oh my gosh, she's pregnant. Now what is she going to do? Children do have sexual relations. Whether or not we feel it's appropriate or inappropriate is not my point. This is taking it one step further and now they're sharing the images of themselves because they feel it's part of an appropriate sexual healthy relationship. As adults we recognize that's not the case. But we have to calibrate our understanding of what they're doing to ensure that we're identifying what is considered age-appropriate behavior. Certainly if it's a 16-year-old taking pictures of an infant or toddler that's not age appropriate behavior. If it's a 16-year-

old taking pictures of a 14 or 15-year-old it's maybe more age appropriate and dealing with that child in an appropriate manner is the best way to proceed.

>> I think it also has to do with the context of how the photos are distributed, where they're at. Obviously there can be extenuating circumstances where in some cases the children have taken the pictures in secret and sold them. You wouldn't arrest the person that the image was taken of but the one who was distributing it or making a profit off it.

>> Very good point. Are you aware of any funding for education programs?

>> I can't pass this one off to you.

>> No I was going to pass it to you.

>> Unfortunately funding in this area is rather limited. The Internet service providers do have their oftentimes creative ways of putting out prevention messages. We put a list on the slide not long ago of the different organizations that are involved in Internet safety. Many of them were recipients of Federal funds at one point. At this given time, at least within the Department of Justice that I'm aware of we aren't making any funding available for the development of further Internet safety presentations. I think what we found is that there is a large cadre of organizations that are willing to offer Internet safety materials. It is a matter of finding the group that's appropriate for you and getting copies of their materials.

>> Also most all of the Internet Crimes Against Children task force have some component of Internet safety. At the Illinois Attorney General's office we provide Internet safety

training for schools, parents, teachers at no cost to them. You can reach out for the local ICAC and find out what do they have in place? Do they have people that will come out and teach it? Do they have a program they can give to you and your own teachers can use that program and run with it? There are different ways to get this done without necessarily having to have funds.

>> Thank you. Do ICACs share I.P. addresses for law enforcement managing sex offenders in their communities?

>> Mike, you want to handle that first?

>> I'll jump on that one right away. Actually here in Illinois the Attorney General went and worked through the legislature. It is now mandatory that registered sex offenders have to supply their Internet address when they register. They are also subject to review where the officers can come in at any time and ask them to update their registration and collect that information. That's not just a law that is for Illinois. There are other states that have done the same thing and most states are going that way, that your Internet address now is just as registerable as your name, address, telephone number. All of it goes on the form.

>> To continue with Mike, our program the Internet crimes program has developed and holds training specifically for probation and parole authority giving them the technology and tools needed to go in on a routine basis to check up on their Wards to determine whether or not they're visiting inappropriate sites. Whether or not they're having access with children through the Internet or through their phones. That they should not be having. And in most states the teams, the ICAC teams are comprised of both sworn law

enforcement as well as probation and parole services working jointly to not only identify new offenders but try to keep the existing and registered offenders in check.

>> Thank you, Chris. Just as a follow-up to the funding question we had earlier, the first involved interested in funding they could also do a key word search on grants.gov. It could be child sexual exploitation prevention. If there are funding opportunities available they'd be able to find them via that method. The next question, what do you think of parental control software? Is it advisable?

>> I'm not going to speak for the Department of Justice on that.

>> I'll qualify this. I've written two books. In the books I did put in some things about parental controls. What I'm going to say as an author and a parent. They are helpful. I'm going to keep it real broad. There are two different types of filtering. One would be a key logging or a blocking filter. Basically what it does is it will try to prevent your children from going to certain sites. I'm not sure that will work because kids are all over and the Internet is changing constantly. I'm not sure that blocking is the best way to go. The filtering type of software where you can work with your own children, you can put in things like your last name, your address, your telephone number. That becomes protected speech. If your child tries to send that out of the house, the filtering software will catch it and say that's not allowed. Some of them actually will send you an email at work to let you know that junior messed up. I've used it at home with my own children when they were growing up and I have to admit they learned pretty quickly. With one of my children his friends might not have used the best language and they realized that every time they cussed my son got kicked off line. If they wanted to talk to him they had to stop cussing. They learned in time. Also when my son made a mistake he knew that the software was going to fire off an

email. Normally I got a call before the email arrived with him on the phone saying hey, dad, this is what went on at home. It does take a little getting used to but I do believe that you have to start to use something with them. Also for parents you have to realize you only have a short window to help your children realize what is appropriate and what is not appropriate when it comes to the computer. As they grow, when they get to age 18 they're off on to college or off to the military or they're off to working. That means they're on computers that have no filters, that have absolutely no help in making them make decisions. As parents I do think that the filtering software can help you get your children to realize what is appropriate and what is not appropriate when you're on the computer.

>> Thank you, Mike. I believe this will probably be the last question. Are the social networking websites doing enough to keep sexual predators off of their sites?

>> I'll jump in.

>> Chris is silent.

>> I'll jump in on this one. You can't lump all social networking sites together. There are some that have worked very hard to clean up their site as much as they can. In fact, you know, we get reports from some of them that help us identify sexual predators that just aren't looking for children online but actually are molesting real children in realtime that have manufactured child pornography. So those sites, yes, they've worked hard. As a whole would be hard pressed to tell you which ones you should or shouldn't. Being a government employee I don't think I can go down that track. The fact is we're all learning. Social networking sites now are the big thing for children but they're moving. Are we going to end up on something in another six months that is completely different? The thing that I

think we have to go back to is not so much the website are they doing a job, is the software doing the job? I don't believe as parents you can abdicate your child's safety to a website or software. It is never going to be relinquished from the parents that it's your job to keep them safe. I think one diligent parent is more than a match for any online predator because the fact is if your child is asked a question and responds, just a second, I have to ask mom if I can give you that information or I have to check with dad, that sexual predator is gone. There is enough unprotected children that they aren't going to risk talking to a child that is interacting and talking to a parent.

>> Thank you, Mike. I guess one of the ways we can pretty much sum up the webcast today would be that in terms of public health professionals continuing education and staying aware of the technology as well as focused communication with our children and supervision are key to keeping our children safe. So on behalf of the Division of Healthy Start and perinatal services I would like to thank our presenters and the audience for participating in the webcast and our contract the Center for the advancement of distance education at the University of Illinois at Chicago Bureau of Public Health for making this project work. We encourage you to let your colleagues know about the website [mchcom.com](http://mchcom.com) where this will be archived. We look forward to your participation in future webcasts.