

Transcript of the September 20, 2023, Orange County Board of Education Special Meeting

SHAW: Afternoon, everybody. Welcome. I'm glad to have you. We are going to go ahead and get started. For the benefit of the record, this special meeting of the Orange County Board of Education is called to order. Darou, will you please call roll?

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Here.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Present.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Here.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Here.

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

SHAW: Trustee Valdes texted me earlier. He is not feeling too hot. He is a little under the weather, but he is watching from home. So, Jorge, get well soon. We will see you next time. We will proceed to the adoption of the Agenda of the Special Meeting of September 20, 2023.

BARKE: I will move to adopt the Agenda.

SPARKS: Second.

SHAW: All in favor?

BARKE, WILLIAMS, SHAW, SPARKS, VALDES: Aye.

SHAW: Any opposed? Thank you. To lead us off, we will have an invocation this evening offered by Barbie George. Barbie, if you could come on up to the mic here, that would be great?

GEORGE: Let us bow our heads. Heavenly Father, thank you for this time that we are here together, Lord. We ask you to be here. Give us knowledge and wisdom in all things. Give us the information that we need so that we can all be better citizens and serve our community in a greater way. We thank you for every servant that is in this room, and we ask you to give them each inspiration to help us to become a more united nation. Thank you so much for this time, in your glorious name. We place this meeting in your hands. In your name, Lord. Amen.

SHAW: Amen. Thank you. To lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, we are honored to have with us this evening, County Supervisor from the Third District, and Chairman of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, Chairman Don Wagner.

WAGNER: Thank you, Mr. President, Trustees, and Ms. George. I touched on it in the invocation, and that subject is being *not* divided, being indivisible. One of the words in the Pledge of Allegiance. Let's keep that in mind as we seek to come together as a nation, heal the ills of this nation, and solve the problems of this nation. If you would please join with me? I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SHAW: Thank you. To make sure everyone understands, we are broadcasting this live online. There will be a lot of people participating that way, online. It will be saved on our website in the future as a reference to people going forward. The room, we are a little light this evening. But we are going to be speaking to a lot of people online and speaking to people in the future as well, in that medium. I also wanted as we begin here, very publicly thank the good trustee from the Fifth District, Dr. Lisa Sparks, who has really moved Heaven and Earth, done a lot of work here behind the scenes to put this together. I want to thank you, Lisa for all that you have done here. We are going to be turning the time over to Lisa to be the moderator.

SPARKS: Okay, thank you. Thank you all for taking the time to come to this very important forum. Savvy Safety in Public Schools Forum, an Orange County Board of Education forum intending to shed light on fentanyl, sexual assault, human trafficking, surveillance, social media and cybersecurity issues putting our students at risk. Education is the key to prevention. We felt that this is such an important set of topics with a lot of different pillars that we are going to be covering tonight; to really inform parents, community members, as well as students and teachers, about what are the signs and symptoms that we need to be looking out for so that students can go to school and feel safe. If you are going to school and you are not feeling safe, then you are not going to have the capacity to learn. We are all about students being able to have the capacity to learn.

It is just so important that we all, as community members, come together. We are so grateful for our police force and our Sheriff's Department for all that you all do. Parents and community members play a significant role in the safety of our community as well. Parents need to feel safe when they are dropping their kids off. We, actually, my last kid just got a driver's license. So, I'm like, yes! As parents, we are dropping our kids off at school, and we need to feel like they are have a capacity to learn and can be safe in the school environment. Our speakers tonight, we just have an amazing lineup of speakers. I just want to thank you all so much for agreeing to come tonight. We have some competing events in Orange County tonight, so I'm so happy that we are able to produce this on YouTube. We will have that in perpetuity available to the public, so there is just going to be so much great information.

Now let me just kind of give you an understanding before I introduce our panelists of how this is going to work. Each panelist has a designated amount of time between eight and 10 minutes. We have a pair of folks that are going to take up double the time, because they are going to tag team. Then we have our cleanup speaker who will get just a little bit more time. We are going to move

Chairman Wagner up to the top because he has a couple of competing events tonight as well. We just appreciate you all being able to be here. What we are going to do is have each speaker, when it is your time to come up, we are going to have you speak here at the podium. You will mainly be speaking toward us on the dias, the trustees. But also feel free to look in the audience. The YouTube camera I think is up there. Is that where it is? And here, yeah, just so you sort of know where the cameras are. That is how it is going to kind of roll.

Then we have a sort of timer here that will give you a kind of warning of when your time is up. You can kind of wrap up at that point, so we will try to keep it moving along. Darou will keep us in check. Then after our speakers have said their pieces and given us all this amazing information, each trustee will have an opportunity to ask a question of whomever panelists, whichever panelists they so choose, related to the information that is distributed. If we have time for a second question, we will do that. We intend to end the panel promptly at 7:30. Then we will have 30 minutes for public comment for any members of the public who want to give public comment related to the issues we talk about tonight.

Okay. Without any further ado, let me introduce the panelists. I'm going to serve as moderator, and obviously I'm a trustee up here. We have Tory Torres, Special Agent from Homeland Security Investigations from the Orange County Child Exploitation Task Force. Thank you, Tory. We have Sergeant Brian Gunsolley of the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Public Affairs and Community Engagement Division. Thank you, Brian. We have Matt Friedman and Jack Britton from the Averter. They are both co-founders and CEO. Matt is the co-founder and CEO. Jack is the CTO/CISO. We have state Assemblyman Bill Essayli joining us from the 63rd Assembly District. Welcome. We have Chairman Don Wagner of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, Area Three. Brenda Lebsack, our educator and advocate. Then we clean up with Toni Mckinley who is Executive Director of Magdalene House of Austin, Texas, who will share her story with us as well.

We will lead off then. As I mentioned earlier, Chairman Don Wagner will be our first speaker. You are on deck.

WAGNER: Thank you, Trustee Sparks. I appreciate the indulgence of the Board and my fellow panelists. There are competing events, and I have got one of them later tonight that I have got to get to. I do appreciate the chance to lead off. I even more so just appreciate the opportunity to be here to thank you for raising the issues. To give you a little bit of the county's perspective. I started the morning out in the Palm Desert area on a panel with two other assemblymembers. It is great to see Assemblymember Essayli here. It is very clear that the issue of school safety is an issue that is taking the attention of parents. It certainly seems to be taking the attention of the school boards around this state. It really should get Sacramento's attention, and, in my view, change some of the direction that we are getting out of Sacramento on the subject of school safety.

What is going on down here is in many, many ways a success story. Though the work is by no means done. When I say success story, it may sound a little bit odd. But let me tell you, we have got somebody here talking about human trafficking. When I was in the State Legislature, I had the Orange County District Attorney's office come up and talk to me about human trafficking.

My response was, what are you talking about? I'm in Orange County. Right? You got to go somewhere—No. It is here. It is our children. It is going on. It is larger than any of us perhaps want to recognize. That you do have speakers here who can address that topic. More importantly, can give to the parents, give to the folks that are out there watching a little bit of information to deal with this issue, hats off to you.

The subject I will spend most of my time on, fentanyl. Same thing. We are letting folks know that this is an issue, not of somewhere else. It is not some of those communities up in other parts of the state that we see maybe more drug challenges than we have here in Orange County, where in most of our community—no. This is a problem right here. My thanks to Sergeant Gunsolley who was in our chambers a couple of weeks ago as we announced a new program that the county is behind to address this issue of fentanyl. We are doing our part. I have addressed you before, and you responded magnificently with the appropriate resolution, with the appropriate effort to get the word out. We have got to take that much, much beyond our confines, because this problem of fentanyl is one that is hitting our communities. Every single one of them. Whether you think so, or as a parent you think, ah, drugs, that is not my problem. Think again.

What we have seen in the state of California since 2016 is an absolute explosion of fentanyl overdoses. Fentanyl poisonings is perhaps a better way to put it. The statistics since 2016 show a roughly 2,200% increase in the state of California. Thankfully, only a 1,600% increase here in Orange County. We know this is an issue. We, at the county, have taken several steps to address the issue. My office have put on seminars around my district, in the schools mostly, to bring parents in, to bring kids in, and, to say, this is what is out there. This is what to look for. If you see it, we have got the opioid reversal agent available to help you. We gave \$20,000 to each of the school districts in my district to make sure they have Naloxone available.

What I would say to the parents that are out there is find out if your schools have taken us up on that offer. Find out if your schools are telling you what the procedure is, what the protocols are for using it. It isn't complicated. What to watch for, see if there are some training sessions available either through the schools or through the county. Another thing we have done is \$1.7 million to the Sheriff's Department. I trust Sergeant Gunsolley will tell you about the Above the Influence Program that we think is award-winning. That should be award-winning, that is cutting edge, explaining to parents, to families, how to deal with the scourge of fentanyl. We have supported that program with some additional funds, and those funds include additional tools to the Sheriff's Department to make sure they have got the resources they need to address this problem. It is something that is in the schools, and it is very much, since it is called out in the agenda today, a part of public safety, a part of school safety.

One of the points that I have tried to make, as we talk fentanyl, is that all of our first responders have fentanyl. The police car, the sheriff's car that rolls up to the site, the ambulance, the fire truck that shows up at an incident, they have all got Narcan or some form of Naloxone on the vehicle. They are not the first responder though. The first responder is mom or dad who finds the kid in a bedroom. The first responder is the high school teacher who finds a kid in a bathroom or in a locker room. Those are the first responders that we are trying to get the information to and the tools to help them deal immediately with that problem. We do find with Naloxone, it is remarkable the abilities that it has to reverse a fentanyl overdose. I don't want to oversell it. But I

will say I took a tour of the Orange County Fire Authorities' 911 call center. While we are on the call, there is a call for a fentanyl overdose out on the street. There was someone from the sound of the call on death's door. Police arrive or fire, I don't remember who exactly arrives, gives a dose of Narcan. The guy gets up and is walking away. He wants to go on with life. It is an amazing thing, I think, how quickly it will work if we get the resources there. This is something that you folks are to be complimented for in trying to give the information out in the context of the schools. Because that is where the parents and the kids come together and where the problem can be addressed most immediately and in a broad-scale way. Thank you for doing that. In a nutshell, those are a couple of the things that the county is involved in. I would add two calls. One, to anyone out there that is watching this, the county will make available Narcan if you feel that that is something that you and your family would benefit from. We will make available training as well, if necessary. We will make it available to your schools as well. Have them contact us to take us up on that.

The second thing to add is that we will in fact continue around the county, giving the seminars that are necessary and making sure folks are trained appropriately. I guess I would add a third thing. If there is anything we can do that you can think of, or we need to talk to, or you think ought talk to us, do not hesitate to call. The county is taking this seriously, wants to help, wants to solve it, and knows how big a problem it is. We stand ready to partner with you in finding those solutions. Thank you for this seminar. Thank you for the opportunity to ramble for a few minutes about fentanyl. Really, thank you for helping collectively, our parents keep our schools safe. If anybody has any questions? Otherwise, I'm going to head out.

SPARKS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We so appreciate you taking the time to share your insights, what the county is experiencing on the county level and sharing for parents where they can go to get help from you and your colleagues on the Supervisors. Thank you so much.

WAGNER: Thank you very much. Take care.

SPARKS: Alright, that brings us to, as Chairman Wagner needs to go to another event, we will move to our next speaker, Tory Torres, Special Agent, Homeland Security Investigations from the Orange County Child Exploitation Task Force. Thank you for joining us.

TORRES: Thank You. Okay, let me just see if I can find the clicker here.

MEDIA STAFF: Yup, that is it.

TORRES: This is it?

MEDIA STAFF: Yep. The green is to go, the red is to the left.

TORRES: Love it. Okay. First off, I just wanted to thank you guys for having me here. I'm very honored to be here to talk with you guys. Educating the community is one of my favorite parts of my job. I truly feel like the more educating we do, the less victims we have coming to report things to our task force. I'm going to go a little bit into the trends that we are seeing right now, as far as child predators online, and some tips, hopefully, for you guys and for parents to kind of

ease that anxiety, the fear that it would happen to your child. I work on the Orange County Child Exploitation Task Force. We are comprised of special agents from Homeland Security. We also have wonderful investigative task force officers from Orange County Sheriff's Department. We prosecute all of our cases through the District Attorney's Office. Our goal is to take cases federally through the AUSA's Office, because a lot of times these predators will get more time on the federal side.

Like I said, we do investigate internet crimes against children. Throughout this presentation, I'm going to refer to child sexual abuse material. We used to refer to it as child pornography. We no longer use that term because it is from the eyes of the perpetrator. It kind of insinuates that there is some type of pleasure out of it. There has been a big push to refer to child pornography as child sexual abuse material, also known as CSAM. You will hear me say that a few times throughout this presentation. We offer resources to victims of these crimes and their families, and we educate the community on how to keep their children safe, which is why I'm here today.

We get most of our cases from the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children. They come in the form of cyber tips, which I will explain what those are on the next slide. We also get a lot of our cases from concerned parents or citizens. Then some of our cases also come from our HSI Headquarters. A lot of those cases are the ones that we work internationally. Just to give you guys a little bit of a glimpse of what we are dealing with here. In 2022, NCMEC had 32 million cyber tips. These cyber tips contained 88.3 million images, videos, and files of CSAM. That is about 99.5% of these cyber tips. The numbers have just been growing and growing and growing. To kind of give you some perspective on what that looks like here in Orange County, me and my team, we get about 50-100 cyber tips per month. That is a lot of cases that we are going through.

These tips come into us because U.S.-based electric service providers are legally required to report any instances of CSAM being shared on their servers. What I mean by that is companies like Facebook, Instagram, Google, WhatsApp, these are the companies that are sending us these cyber tips because they have encountered CSAM in their accounts. As you can see, Facebook had 21 million cyber tips sent to NCMEC in 2022. The reason I like to share this information is because a lot of parents and people in the community like to think that child exploitation is happening in dark corners of the internet. It is happening on Facebook and Instagram, and these are the most common social media apps that kids are using these days. Just keep that in mind as we go through these slides.

These reports, like I said, have been rising in the last few years. A lot of it did start with the pandemic. People are just online more. Kids are weren't in school for a few years. One of the fastest growing areas of exploitation is called online enticement. I'm going to explain what online enticement is a little bit further in the presentation, but we have seen the highest growth for online enticement in the last few years. Everyone knows that kids are on phones. They are on tablets. They are using virtual reality gaming. They are on all types of technology. Even if they don't have it themselves, their friends have it. They are also using all kinds of social media apps, gaming apps like Roblox, Fortnite. This is actually where we are seeing this child exploitation occur.

That little app that is purple and has a W, it is called Whisper. There has been a new wave of location-based social media apps. A child goes in and they post their location. The app will basically match them up with people within their location so they can chat. Well, we have learned by doing undercover operations that these are the apps that predators are waiting on. How simple is it to get Sarah from down the street to go to the local grocery store to meet up? It is very easy for them to use these apps. These are apps that parents need to look out for. I would say definitely don't let your children on any location-based apps. Here is some potentially unsafe behaviors that the children in these schools might be engaging in that would potentially make them a victim. Sharing inappropriate photos, chatting with individuals that you don't know in real life, talking about adult subjects and visiting adult sites.

Now, those things can take you to the next level, which is sexting. I call this the gateway to exploitation. About 15% of teens are doing this. It can be fairly innocent if it is between boyfriend and girlfriend, or flirting with a crush. But a lot of what is happening is these images are being reposted on the internet. They are being sent to websites. They are being shared in groups at school. It becomes a way for these victims to be bullied at school as well. Sexting is kind of also a gateway into online enticement. What I mean by online enticement is when a predator knowingly persuades, induces, or entices a minor into engaging in illegal sexual activity. This is kind of when it gets to the point where we can start thinking about prosecuting a case against these predators.

As I said, it typically starts off with sexting or grooming. Then there is some type of exchange of sexual images or CSAM. A lot of these predators will send them adult images to kind of desensitize them. Then they will ask the child for images of themselves, kind of just slowly working their way in. Then, worst case scenario is they are actually wanting to meet with these minors in person to engage in sexual activity. A lot of this, like I said, is occurring in social media. For children who are online, it is typically behind closed doors. What I mean by that is kids are going to bathrooms, or they get their phone at night, and this is where they are taking videos. They are taking images, or they are video chatting with these predators.

One of the most important cases that we want to start publicizing is sextortion cases, because we have been seeing an enormous amount of these cases coming through. What I mean by sextortion is an online predator is online and pretending to be a minor. They have made a fake account with pictures where they are pretending to be minors. Then they are engaging other minors and grooming them into sending CSAM to them.

Once they have this CSAM, their motivation is to get money. How they do this is they threaten to distribute this CSAM to all their friends on Facebook, or Instagram, or everyone within their school. They do their research. They know exactly who to say they are going to send it to. These predators are very technology savvy. They are using VPNs, so it is very hard for us to track where they are coming from. A lot of the times they are in other countries. Right now we are seeing these cases are coming out of Nigeria and West Africa, which makes it very hard for us to prosecute these cases. Some warning signs that parents can look out for are broken English. Like I said, they are in other countries. Asking a child to switch from Facebook or Instagram to a different platform, asking for inappropriate messages, asking to get on live video chats, or asking for money.

Just to kind of give you guys a real look of what this looks like in real life. This is a predator who was using an Instagram here. Obviously, like a very pretty young girl, and they are targeting young males. Typically young males are not going to come forward. Because of time, I'm not going to read the text. But they are threatening, like I said, to share these. I wanted to share this headline because we have been seeing a lot of suicides as a result of these cases. Instead of asking for help, a lot of these young minors are committing suicide. Okay. I have a few slides left.

SPARKS: Go ahead and finish up.

TORRES: Okay. Okay. This is the good part. How do we prevent this? I want parents to know that you guys are in control of your children. The most important thing is educating yourselves on these tactics. If you are listening to this presentation, you guys have already started to do that. Next would be to have age appropriate conversations with your children, setting up some ground rules, which I will share on the next slide. Just staying in control and revisiting these topics often because these apps are changing every day. These are some ground rules that, I, me and my partners, we use in our own homes. Based on our investigations, we would like to share with parents or anyone. Only add or chat people in real life and have been approved by your parents. Only download applications approved by your parents. I give parents a two week rule where they are using it before they allow their children to use it. Do not take or send inappropriate images. No phones behind closed doors. Parents know all the passwords and can access the phone at any time. Maybe do a weekly check-in. Use appropriate usernames. Never share locations, and set up consequences for breaking rules.

There is also a lot of technology out there these days that helps parents monitor their kids' devices. I just want to say real quick. Bark has phones that have built-in parental controls and their Instagram is wonderful for keeping up-to-date with tactics of predators. There is also lots of websites that you can use. Netsmart has internet safety videos for children if you don't want to have the conversation with them yourself. That is it.

SPARKS: Okay.

TORRES: Thank you very much.

SPARKS: Thank you so much. Wonderful information. I know we are going to have a lot of great questions at the end from our trustees. At this point I will introduce our duo, our dynamic duo. Actually no, Sergeant Brian Gunsolley is next, from the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Public Affairs and Community Engagement Division. Then we will have our dynamic duo.

GUNSOLLEY: Hi, good evening. Thank you for having me. I'm going to wait for the presentation to come up on the screen here. Okay. There we go. All right, so I want to talk about fentanyl. Not just fentanyl in particular because we have medical fentanyl that exists, that we have had for a long time. We want to talk about illicit fentanyl. Illicit fentanyl is a street drug. It is something that is being sold on our streets. It is not something that the medical community

uses. It is made mostly south of our border and then shipped to our streets. That is what we are going to talk about tonight.

This is a synthetic. It is made in a laboratory, which means if you can get the precursor chemicals, you can make unlimited amounts of fentanyl. A lot of the cartels use this. They have switched over to fentanyl, because it is very potent. You can sell a lot more doses than say another type of opiate, like heroin for instance. It is 50 times stronger than heroin. Businesswise it makes sense to make more doses and sell more doses of a stronger fentanyl, or a stronger product. That is why they have switched over to fentanyl. We don't find heroin very much on the streets anymore. It is mostly fentanyl. It is being sold as a counterfeit pill. It appears like a legitimate pill, like a Percocet, or an Oxycodone, or even a Xanax, which is a benzodiazepine used often for people with anxiety. Because it has a sedative effect, it can seem like you are getting a legitimate pill. But the truth is you are getting a fentanyl pill if you are getting something not from a pharmacy. The only way you are going to know you are going to know that you are getting a legitimate pill is to get it from a pharmacy and with a prescription from your doctor.

It is also being sold as a powder. There is also other types of counterfeit pills. This is just a sample of our more common ones. One of the reasons why it is so deadly is because you don't need very much of it, only two milligrams, so just a tiny amount. You can see if you are making all these pills, especially if you are not making it in legitimate laboratories, you are going to end up with maybe one pill that is more deadly than another. In Orange County, we really started to see fentanyl problems occur in 2016. That is when we started regulating oxycodone. It was being prescribed because the doctors were under the impression that it was safer to prescribe for minor pain and stuff. But then we started to realize how addictive it really was, and it started to really get regulated. When that happened, there was people who still needed their pain medication. But weren't able to get it, and they turned to fentanyl. Then we ended up having this takeoff of our fentanyl related deaths.

In 2022, we happened to have a little drop from 2021, which is a good sign. That means that we have a lot of Narcan going out into the community. It is helping to save lives. We also have more education that is occurring. I think we are all getting more aware of the dangers of fentanyl. We are seeing here in Orange County, at least, a little bit fewer people dying from fentanyl. It is our number one killer of teenagers in Orange County, surpassing other ways that teens often died, which is traffic accidents, violence, suicide. Things like that. If you were to look at the 2022 statistics, the amount of people that that would represent would be about six Southwest Airline jets going down.

In Orange County there is about 24.07 people dying of fentanyl overdoses per 100,000. The state average is 18.03, so we are a little bit above average. This is how these pills are made. They make them by taking the active ingredient, which is fentanyl, they add it with a binding agent, such as microcrystalline cellulose. Then they put it into a pill press, and they crank out these pills. The cartels have billions of dollars at their disposal. They are not just feeding America with the pills, they are feeding the world. They have sophisticated pill processes cranking out thousands and thousands of pills a minute. With that demand from the world, they have a lot of production.

But they don't have good control over their production. Oftentimes, what they will do is hire people to meet that demand by hiring farmers. Maybe farmers who are struggling a little bit to make ends meet, because maybe it is not a growing season. They are doing side work. Here they are just kind of putting the mixture together and stirring it together with a stick. Then that gets put into a pill. You can imagine that if this cookie dough represents the binding agent and the chocolate chips represents the fentanyl that is added to it, and it is just kind of mixed together. Then a bunch of pills are made. One pill, may be this one, which has the blue circle, and another might be this one. You can see that there are different amounts of fentanyl in the pills. The red pill is a deadly pill, and the blue one is not. The cartels do not want to kill their customers. That is bad business. What they want to do is make the blue one, or somewhere between the blue and the red, so that they can get their customers high, get them addicted, and get them coming back and spending more money for the drug. However, six out of 10 times, according to the DEA, the red pill is made.

Some people may survive that red pill if they have a tolerance built up to the opiate, so they could take it. But a young person, like a young teenager who tries a pill, or maybe thinks they are getting a Percocet and tries it, they could easily get that red pill. And, they cannot tolerate it. Social media is where it is mostly being sold to our young people, Snapchat in particular. It is pretty easy for kids to get it online. There used to be a time when I was younger, as a teenager, you would have to maybe doctor shop. Right? Go to different doctors and have different names or whatever. That is how you got your pills to feed your addiction. Now everybody just goes online. That is where you get it.

[Video is displayed.]

VIDEO VOICE 1: Sophia says, buying drugs is as easy as sending the right emoji to a so-called plug. A dealer, who finds customers on apps like Snapchat.

VIDEO VOICE 2: I'm looking for a little plug emoji, or like a fire emoji, or just whatever emoji. The normal dealers I have, they are like, "Yo, hit my line for gas." Then you are like, "'Yo, you got whatever?" Slang terms for whatever.

VIDEO VOICE 1: It can happen that fast?

VIDEO VOICE 2: Yeah.

VIDEO VOICE 1: Just by communicating on Snapchat?

VIDEO VOICE 2: Mm-hmm.

VIDEO VOICE 1: And by searching with the right emoji?

VIDEO VOICE 2: If you know where to go, it is really easy.

VIDEO VOICE 1: It is a terrifying new playbook for drug dealing. Now, so common, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency releasing this cheat sheet for parents and guardians, showing the emojis commonly used to buy drugs on social media.

[Video ends.]

GUNSOLLEY: You can go to the DEA website, get that cheat sheet, and download it. I'm going to leave some here in the back of the room so that everybody can take one if they want. Some trends, we are seeing rainbow fentanyl. Most trends start on the east coast and then make their way west. This trend did start in other places, and we started to see that it was going to progress here. We hadn't seen it until a couple of months ago. We finally now have rainbow fentanyl here. That is basically just fentanyl that is colored in different colors so that it doesn't seem so harmful. You can imagine a young teenager at a party. Somebody gives them this. It almost looks like candy. It kind of just drops their guard, and they are more willing to try it.

We have some drug trends where people are adding additives to the mixture, and the reason is that fentanyl does not last very long. Your body processes it out pretty quickly. They are trying to extend the high that someone is getting so that they don't have to keep taking those pills and risk getting an overdose. Xylazine, also called Tranq. It is being added to that mixture. The problem is it is an animal tranquilizer. It is not meant for human consumption. One of the problems with injecting it here, you can see that it can cause necrosis of the skin. It is very hard for doctors to treat that.

Protonitazene is another thing the DEA kind of put out a warning about. This trend is where they are adding higher doses of another type of synthetic opiate, and it is three times stronger than fentanyl. You are just going to need more Narcan if someone overdoses on it. Xanax, benzodiazepine, is being added to the mixture. That is supposed to help extend the high, same with Valium being added to it. The problem with that is that Narcan does not have an effect on those drugs. If someone is overdosing on it, they may end up with not being able to recover with Narcan. Another one is teens are purposely overdosing on fentanyl. Then their friends will bring them back to life by giving them Narcan. It is called going to the light. We have to be aware of that possibility.

How do we protect our kids? If you suspect that there is any type of drug use in the home, we want to make sure that you are getting Naloxone. Naloxone, a lot of places are giving it out for free. Orange County Healthcare Agency provides seminars around the county from time to time. We have one tomorrow in Villa Park, but you can also go by these drop sites. The Orange County Healthcare Agency is partnering with different sites. There is two in Anaheim, one in Newport Beach, and one in Tustin where you can actually drop in and get some free Naloxone. You want to spot check your kids' cell phones just to make sure that you know exactly what they are doing. Look for any of those emojis. You want to have regular talks with your teen about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. So that they are aware of what they are doing if they end up going down that road. It is not a one and done type conversation. It is something that you need to do on a regular basis as they grow up.

You want to talk about the dangers of buying drugs online, why drugs and alcohol are addictive and dangerous, how a young developing brain is more vulnerable to addiction than the adult brain. How their drug use harms the whole family and not just them. Once they see how they fit in and how they affect everybody, they are less likely to use those drugs. The pathway, sometimes it is with a legitimate pain medication. Then it progresses to where they really like it. Then that prescription ends, but they want to continue it. They might go online and find it. Also, anxiety, it could be treating anxiety, looking for a Xanax pill or something online. Then they end up with a fentanyl pill. It could be caused by simply a Monster drink or some type of stimulant drinks that our young people are taking. That could cause that anxiety and then pill seeking behavior. Then of course, a very important protective factor is that we give our kids daily love and affection, even if you think they don't deserve it. Those who are the worst, need it the most. Okay. We need to make sure that we are doing that. It is likely that when they run into difficulties of life, they will come to you rather than to their friends. We want them to come to you who has a fully developed prefrontal cortex, that logic system that is fully developed. They do not have that. We want to make sure that that connection is there. The way that teenagers recognize daily love and affection, according to the Parent Project, which we teach, hugs and kisses, verbal I love yous, written text messages, notes on the mirror, or a note in a lunchbox. Thank you very much.

SPARKS: Thank you, Sergeant. I bet you didn't know when you joined the Sheriff's Office you were going to have to become a pharmacologist. Thank you. Okay, that brings us to our next set of speakers, Matt Friedman from Avertere, Cofounder and CEO; and Jack Britton, Avertere Cofounder and CTO/CISO.

FRIEDMAN: Good evening, everyone. First I would like to express how grateful we are to have this opportunity to speak to you today, share our insights, and actually learn from all of you in this room as well. The previous speakers, awesome stuff.

BRITTON: Yeah, it was really good.

FRIEDMAN: Great. You will see some tangential points in there. What does that mean? That means that this is important stuff, because multiple speakers are touching on those same topics. Second, I would like to thank the OCBE board for setting up this event. I would actually like to thank everybody that took some time out of their evening to show up here. A quick disclaimer, we have been given 20 minutes. They are pretty hard on that, with the light over there. What we need to cover here is a lot of cybersecurity. It could easily be 40, 50, 60 minutes. We are going to do our formula one version, which is pretty high speed but can result in some crashes. So, bear with us on that. We have written some notes so we can stay on the track. If we do kind of refer to our notes, it is just us pulling into the pit to kind of get a little recharge and get back onto the track.

Avertere, who is Averter? We are a managed service provider. We focus on security and safety in the digital world. What makes us unique is that we actually are an MSP that was formed with the explicit aim of making K-12 schools safer online through the cybersecurity world, which you have already seen twice today just in two speakers that it is a pretty important part of the space, the landscape here. As we delved into K-12 specific security and safety concerns, it became clear

that digital risks and threats often proceeded physical threats. As a matter of fact, the Secret Service has done two studies, and 44% of all active shooters were bullied, either cyberbullied, physically bullied, or both. Again, that is the precursor if you will. When I say that as we delved into it, our team consists of teachers, superintendents, child protection advocates, cybersecurity experts, human trafficking rescue teams, special forces operators, school board members, parents, and government agencies. We are all united to that same goal. That is really to make school safe for all students.

Before we dive in, I'm going to do just a quick intro. Jack here, this is Jack Britton. He has got nearly 20 years of cybersecurity and network's experience. First nine years of that were in the Marine Corps where he focused exclusively on intelligence work. He has helped big companies improve their computer security, and he specializes in finding weak spots. He has set up teams to monitor some of the largest companies in the world. He loves teaching people how to protect their computers, networks, and safeguard their PII, that is personally identifiable information. You will hear that a couple of times here. That is critical. He has countless hours of volunteer work, probably even into the days and weeks, including helping evacuate 15,000 Afghani refugees. He performs ongoing work to help stop child trafficking through the National Child Protection Federation.

Myself, my name is Matt Friedman. I have 11 years in the U.S. Navy Special Forces at Seal Team 1, Construction Project Manager on big schools. I have done a little bit of building in the infrastructure for schools; done some other general contracting into residential, and actually have built and sold a couple of water sports, taking my hobby out of the garage and into the professional space. Next slide please. Thank you.

What do we want to learn? You have heard a little bit about who we are, why we are here, and what can you expect to learn. First, you are going to grasp the scope of the cyber risk. You have already seen a couple of little indicators of what that cyber risk can result in. It is not only in the schools, but it is in the homes. You won't leave here as a cyber expert, but you will certainly have a better understanding of the threats that are out there. Next, we will guide you through the landscape and available solutions. There are multiple tiers of solutions, and we will point you to some reliable tools and some experts that can help you reclaim your privacy and security. Because that is sort of step one in our book, is privacy and security. If the bad guys can't get to you online, you have eliminated a big swath of their opportunity. Right? We have heard it from the previous two speakers. A lot of this point of origin comes from the cyber world.

Lastly, we will discuss the role, and this has also been touched on, open conversations. Cybersecurity is not a tech issue. It is a community issue. We believe that effective communication, continuity, and consistency are vital for keeping our children safe online. By the end of the talk, basically, you will be able to understand, tackle, and discuss a few cyber components and risks that can lead to some of these other, whether it is fentanyl, child trafficking, et cetera. Next slide, please. Thank you. We are tag teaming here. We have got a few definitions here. I'm going to blast through these really quickly. We will be available after to go over any. We also have some handouts available that will sort of elaborate a little bit on some of this. Human trafficking, it is the illegal act of recruiting, transporting, or keeping people against

their will for the purpose of forced labor or sexual exploitation. That has already been touched on. Again, it is not redundant. It is important. That is really what it is.

Sometimes these acts are controlled by gangs, pimps, family members, buyers of the services, or who knows who else. Every month, every year there could be a new bad actor in this space. Sextortion, I don't really need to touch too much on that. That has already been covered. Thank you for that. Virtual kidnapping, this is something that hasn't been touched on yet. It is an interesting new phenomenon. Frankly, with AI there is an opportunity there for this to really, really accelerate and move fast. What that really is, is it is a scam where criminals pretend to have kidnapped a loved one and demand a ransom, even though they may not have kidnapped anybody. Hence, virtual kidnapping. AI not only is relevant to virtual kidnapping, but it is doxing. It is creating fake identities, both voice and pictures. Unfortunately, like anything in technology, it has got a good side and a bad side.

I'm going to skip over three here, because we are going to touch on that at the very end. Social engineering, this really is where you are manipulating people into revealing confidential information, whether it results in sextortion or some other bad act. It can also result in passwords, personal details. This usually happens, again as Tory, is that correct, Tory? Sorry. I only heard it once, Tory alluded to. It is deception or trickery. In what she presented, you have got the deception of adults tricking kids into thinking they are other kids. That results in grooming, which has already been covered. Pretexting, that is a term that is specific to cybersecurity. What that really is, is it is fabricating scenarios to obtain information or unapproved access. That is called pretexting.

Doxing, before this event, we did have some conversations about doxing. Really, in essence, with that is, it is open source intelligence gathering. That is the precursor to doxing. That is where people are using publicly available information, public domain information to gather intelligence, open source intelligence. Then they are revealing that information against that person's will or without the person knowing it. Data aggregators and brokers, this is kind of interesting. This has not been touched on, but it is very, very prevalent. A lot of it comes from advertising. But aggregators, collect, compile, and sell data to other businesses for analysis and/or marketing. Brokers buy and sell that.

A lot of that does involve the personally identifiable information that we have already alluded to, PII. Now, you guys are kind of lucky here in California, although some of you may not believe it. California is pretty progressive in privacy, and they just passed a bill. I believe it was September 17, State Bill 362. It is called the Delete Act. Eventually, I think it is by 2026, you will be able to make one submission and have all of the people that are collecting and aggregating your data.

BRITTON: Delete your data.

FRIEDMAN: Yeah, they are deleting it. Off record it is called the Delete Act. It is not in place yet, but it is coming. That is California specific. Sometimes California leads the way in privacy, so we will see where that goes. This is the one I skipped over. I skipped over tabletop exercises. This goes back to some of the conversations that have already been had. Tabletop is another

cybersecurity term. What that is, is in enterprise or business or in a school case, we would run through a discussion-based exercise that is designed to test the effectiveness of your cybersecurity. Right? It illustrate risks that are there. We have kind of modified that a little for the family and the home use, and we are calling it Table Talk. That is exactly what it is, around the dinner table. As you already mentioned, it shouldn't be a topic not to be discussed. If you have to get other—because you are not comfortable doing it, then there are other assets out there that can help you and train you through that.

Next slide, please. You have seen a bunch of stats here today. I don't know that you have seen these stats. What we believe is that the door that these bad actors are coming through in many, many cases is the network, whether it is at home, or at school, or whatever. Again, the COVID-19 pandemic changed our lives. It also unfortunately contributed to schools becoming more vulnerable to cyber-attacks. As school shifted to online learning, again, this may be redundant, it basically exposed more vulnerabilities in their networks. Bad actors saw it, and they went after it.

They took swift action. You can see this in some of these stats here. I'm going to keep going. You can read the stats. Those emblems up there are the Department of Justice, CISA, and MS-ISCA. Those are all federal entities that work together to track and share information on known vulnerabilities. They actually prosecute bad actors when it is applicable and when they can get enough evidence to do so.

One of the other significant risks, we have already touched on it here, that is the second from the bottom, the data breach. That is that PII, personally identifiable information. This can be social security, driver's license, passwords, passports, et cetera. Another aspect to consider as far as the entry point for these bad actors, a lot of it comes from third-party vendors. This is specific to the schools, not to individuals. You really need to have a good robust program of vetting your third-party vendors. Once they are in the network, and Jack will allude to this later, they are moving laterally.

Let's put this into perspective. If you are a bad actor or a criminal enterprise and you can take the same amount of energy and effort, whether it is physical resources or financial resources, and you can break into 10 schools and ask them for a million dollars each, for \$10 million. Or, you can take that same amount of energy and effort and break into one enterprise and demand \$10 million. You have a better return on investment, ratio wise, of five out of those 10 schools, or eight out of those 10 schools, paying you that ransom. Whereas, one enterprise could tell you, we are not paying. So, return on investment, it is a business for these bad actors, just like the child exploitation is across the border or in foreign countries. Again, I already mentioned it. With the good comes the bad. You have got technology, but technology can result in some bad things.

Next slide please. Thank you. You have seen it before. Numbers don't lie. Here are some very shocking numbers. These are real-world case scenarios. On the left is a school district. I will share just that it is a California school district. You can see that they have a total of 17,500 students and staff. An enterprise on the right, 13,500 staff. We will call it our employees. What does that result in? Those are end-user devices that need to be protected or monitored. That is exposure if you will. Data point three here. These are, again, real world numbers. IT staff at the

school district - eight. They are actually doing pretty well to be honest with you. IT staff at the large enterprise - 3,500. Pretty big disparity there.

In the school domain, IT, really, its role is educational continuity. Keep the wheels turning. Kids have to learn. Kids have to pass tests. That is what their goal is. Cybersecurity ends up being kind of dumped on them by default. Then this last stat really just reiterates the one above it. I mean, in cybersecurity specific staff, 325 to zero. There is a \$3.4 million deficit in cybersecurity professionals around the world. Even big enterprises that have all the money, all the assets in the world, and they are protecting billions and billions of dollars, they still outsource to manage service providers to protect their digital assets. We see less than 4% of schools doing that. You don't have to have the subject matter experts on hand. You just have to be able to sort of facilitate and make that work.

Really, what it comes down to is schools are soft targets for criminals. It actually makes good business sense for criminals to go after schools. These are the doors that they open to go and start facilitating. Not only financial, drugs, which leads to financial; sex trafficking, which leads to financial. Right? It is a door they are opening. The whole thing is about financial gain. What mechanism are they going to use to make that money?

Next slide. I'm going to pass this off to Jack. But the last thing I want to share just to be clear, cyber threat landscape is not exclusively in K-12 schools. We have already talked about it a little bit here. It is in your home. It is in the library. It is in Starbucks. It is in the workplace. It is anywhere that you are on a device. That is really what it is. Now I would like to let Jack, who is our super sleuth, do his magic.

BRITTON: Thanks, Matt. I'm super technical, so I have done my best to kind of break this down, not technical speak. We are going to start with cyber threat landscape. We are going to talk about what that is and why it is important to have the conversation at home, have the conversation in your business and K-12. What is cyber threat landscape? I want you to imagine your home. It is probably one of the safest places that you feel being in. Right? You probably have doors. You have locks, and you have got cameras all throughout your house. Why is that? It is probably to protect your belongings. It is probably to protect your family. Right? From risks that exists in the physical world.

Now I want you to imagine a world or a house that is invisible. By virtue of having a device, you are now in that house, this invisible house. It is called the cyber world. Understanding what cyber threat landscape is, that is understanding the risks, vulnerabilities, and potential attacks that exist in that cyber world so you can make the appropriate investments to protect your belongings, protect your family. To a school, that might actually look like system breaches, data breaches, and social behavior. Like, devious licks, knowing how online social media may influence behavior and cause damages to facilities. Having that discussion will allow you to actually discuss what investments you need to make so you can actually get in front of it.

Finally, at home, it does not just end at school. At home, what that means is being aware of your child's mental health and wellbeing, because interacting with people online. It is actually having an impact on them in the physical world, children and adults, the same. The outcome of that is

identity theft. The worst of it could be human trafficking. Ransomware, what is that? Back to that kind of home analogy. I want you to imagine you are coming home one day. All of a sudden someone is out front and they are like, I have locked up your house. You are not getting in. You are not getting in unless you pay. That is the equivalent of what ransomware is to data. For schools, that means full stop to education. It means that your teachers are not able to get onto their lesson plans. They are not actually able to carry on education. It means months of getting your systems back up and running. That will ultimately impact the school's ability to deliver services to students.

Ransomware also is the cause of data breaches, data leaving the school's environment. This third picture here, what you are seeing is an actual passport. An actual social security number that is on a ransomware gang site as a result of a breach from a school. The reason why this is important is because of student ID theft. Okay? A lot of these kids are not going to know that their identity has been stolen until they open up an account, maybe open up a student loan to go to college. What we have also seen as a result of ransomware breaches from schools is teacher's notes. There is a program called Behavioral Threat Assessment where a teacher actually writes down behavioral patterns of students. Well, the unfortunate aspect of that is human traffickers will leverage that, because they are looking for vulnerable kids. They are looking for kids that maybe don't have the best relationships with their parents or with their ecosystem of trust. Those are things that we need to be aware of and we need to actually have conversation around. This is why it is so important for schools to discuss how they are defending against threats out in the wild. When I say out in the wild, the cyber landscape. The cyber world, the world we all live in, it is invisible.

Cyberbullying, how many people here know someone that has been cyberbullied? I'm sure everyone in here has. Right? It is basically using online platforms. Because of privacy tools like VPNs, maybe residential proxies, people feel safe to harm others online. Ninety percent of teens actually believe that this is a problem that needs to be dealt with. Almost 15% of these surveys are at the ages of nine to 12. What is crazy about this is we are talking about the cyber world and the threats inside it. About 95% of Americans get their first device at the age of 10, so that is the age at which it begins. This is why parents need to have the conversation at a very early age. I hope in the future schools will talk about the cyber threat landscape as part of curriculum for kids, because they don't have the tools to defend themselves. Quite frankly, a lot of parents don't either.

I remember I was 17. I had a pager. Things were different then. Right? You are starting out now at age 10. The threat landscape has changed drastically. Impact to schools, so 64% of surveyed teens said this is actually impacting the learning and their feeling of safety. The reason why that is important is a couple of different things. For schools, that impacts your ratings. It impacts your funding. Right? I think we have actually, there are stats that actually show a decrease in actual learning and testing. It has a lot to do with that as well. Cyberbully victims are two times likely to attempt suicide, hence the term cyberbullicide. If you didn't see that on the first slide, it is a coined term for people that have been impacted in the physical world and have taken their lives.

Then at home, children are nine times more likely to be victims of identity theft. That is because of doxing. Right? That is taking people's data, posting it publicly on a forum. That same data,

and I'm going to walk you all through how to steal identities so that you can protect yourselves. I want to be sure you all hear that part. That same data is what is leveraged to actually steal identities. By virtue of being cyberbullied if an adult doesn't—can we continue?

SPARKS: Go ahead and finish up.

BRITTON: By virtue of being cyberbullied if an adult doesn't intervene, what ends up happening is kids are more likely to commit suicide. Cyber harassment is all encompassing to include sextortion. All the same. You have got to intervene. You have to have the discussion. You have to have it at the table. Parents and their kids have to have open dialogue. Take it to the dinner table and discuss what those threats are in the wild. When I say the wild, again, we know what the threats are in the physical world. But I'm talking about the cyber world that we all live in.

Okay. Human trafficking, I think we have heard it a few times. This is all about coercion or manipulation of individuals into forced labor. A few things to say here. Schools, schools are in that cyber world. It used to be that you were at the mercy of your school walls. By virtue of adopting technology, you have actually made it available for malicious adults to reach kids. It is our responsibility to kind of understand how those malicious adults approach kids. Make the investments so that you can see them. It is only then that we can actually respond to them. The internet has made it more available for malicious adults to reach kids. It is not just an international issue. It is a growing issue as you have heard today. Here in the United States, in 2019, 23,500 runaways have been reported. One in six are victims of sex trafficking. A lot of those victims were actually during school hours, when they were runaways.

Take this at home. What we would like to say is you have to be aware of your child's mental health and wellbeing. Build a relationship. Have dinner. Have the discussions, because they are spending a lot of time online. Almost more time online than they are in the physical world. Because of that, they are vulnerable to malicious actors that feel safe online. It is important that we have that open dialogue. I'm going to go through the tricks of the trade.

This is all about cyber doxing, OSINT. I used to do a lot of consulting with Fortune 250 executives on advanced persistent threats, looking for opportunities of blackmail. All the same tactics for everyone in this room could be leveraged to take an advantage. This will be a lot of fun. Account takeover, first of all, these are all fictitious characters. But all true stories. There is a CEO. His name is John Jameson. He is the CEO of a Fortune 250 company. As you can see there, he has got a LinkedIn account. Like most of us, we feel pretty safe, secure online. Let's step into the adversary's shoes. The adversary uses a free tool called SignalHire. It is actually a marketing tool. Pulls up all the identities that belong to John. With those identities, it will go to a data brokerage site, like cyber background checks. They will actually use that identity, say like a Yahoo address. From there, you are going to learn about John. Where John has lived, all his family members, where he spends his money, his financial background, as well as his political affiliations. This data is free by the way. I recommend everyone go on cyber background checks and look yourself up. It is a pretty eye opening.

The next thing they are going to do, once they have your identity, they are going to look at where you use your online applications and services. You can use a free tool like HOLEHE. No alarm to John. We know now that John uses his Yahoo address on Amazon, Eventbrite, LastPass, Instagram. Then you can go to a site, another data broker site, and for 10 bucks you can get John's passwords. That is how you get into an account. This is why it is important to adopt multi-factor authentication. We are going to have a series of solutions for parents and for faculty members and administrators toward the end here.

Sometimes the target isn't approached directly. Imagine that adversary is like, you know what? It is really hard to target John. I'm going to look for the EA or maybe the bodyguard. It is a true story. Using LinkedIn, we can see the title, VP of Physical Security. We know that potentially this VP of Physical Security may be the bodyguard of John. So, what do you do? Well, you use a reverse image search on Google, the person's picture. It turns out he works for DSS and was John Kerry's bodyguard. Then for less than \$1,000 if you know where to look online, you can get marketing data. It has your information as far as your location. Where does it come from? Your devices, your phones, your watches. It doesn't actually explicitly state, I'm owned by Noah the bodyguard. What it does have, it has lat long. That is the location. It has daytime stamp, and it also actually keeps track of a unique ID per device; per device, a unique ID. You can actually go on Open Maps, which is free, and then post this data. What you are going to see here is those two heat signatures. That is where Noah lives and where Noah works. Now I can infer which device is Noah's, which one is in his pocket. Because those devices haven't moved the longest throughout the day. Then the purple lines there is Noah moving. Now I can confirm that Noah works at the same place as John the CEO. He often visits John at his house. This is how state sponsored groups, you know, that commit corporate espionage. This is how they track people. This is the same way that cyber harassers do it when they are looking for celebrities, when they are looking for the average person, same way that doxers do it as well.

Every now and then I come across someone that is like, you know what? I have got our house under a trust. We are doing all the things. Somehow people still find us. How are they doing that? Good question. Right? We looked into their social media platforms. This is a proud parent. This proud parent has a daughter. The daughter is graduating 2020 at a school. What they did was they searched the school. That put the adversary actually within the jurisdiction of the home. There is actually a program that you can leverage. What it does is, this little orange guy on Google Maps, I think we have all used it, walks all the streets. You can see there in her picture, there is data in the background. It is the electrical pole. It is the pillar of the house, the color of the house. What that little orange guy did for them is validate where she was standing and where they live. This is a way that people will actually find other people based on the data and the background of your photos.

Since we have all got a little dose of fear, we are going to kind of change things up a bit. What do we do about it? We made this presentation for parents just very quickly. I'm just going to go over the districts and schools, what you can do just at a high level. At another time we are happy to have a conversation and an open dialogue. First and foremost, for the districts and schools, if you don't have a relationship today with the cybersecurity infrastructure security agency, we highly recommend it. They are giving free sources on what you can do to secure your networks. Get telemetry on adversaries approaching your school, whether they are ransomware gangs or in

the human trafficking business. The rest of this is all about knowing what you have in that cyber world, getting a better picture, a map, so to speak, of the things you own so that you can start to formulate a strategy for how to protect it.

Before I pass this slide, I just want to make sure you all hear this part. Avoid just buying more technology. Technology is not always the solution. It is not a silver bullet. It is better to know what your current risk landscape is and know what you need based on your uniqueness as an organization to protect your students and the people within schools. These are steps that parents can take. Really you are the first line of defense. If there is anything that you could take away from this, where do I start? I would tell you to look at McAfee plus, the Family Suite. The reason being is it is like a cybersecurity toolkit all at once. It comes with insurance. It is going to help protect you against identity theft. It is going to help protect you against ransomware. You have got VPNs that protect against man in the middle attacks, people trying to steal your bank accounts. There is phishing protection, so it has got a little bit of everything.

There is even identity monitoring. When someone steals your credentials that you may or may not use across all of your applications, it is going to let you know so that you are aware of what you need to do so that people don't access those accounts. Quick story on that. I remember long time ago teaching an executive how someone broke into their system. The way they did it was, those slides I showed you. Right? They were able to determine that someone in this executive's house, it was the spouse and the daughter shared a password to VRBO. They were monitoring the vacation rental application. What ended up happening was the adversaries bought that same vacation rental a couple of days prior. They added a hardware edition. When the executive and their family showed up, they were actually trying to breach cell phones and iPads. That is how they were breached. Having McAfee is going to help pick up on a lot of the knowns.

If there is anything you can take away from this as parents, start there. Also look at OpenDNS. They were bought recently by Cisco. They are powered by Talos, which is a threat intelligence organization. They ensure that your kids aren't going to harmful websites. They also ensure that you have an added layer of protection when it comes to phishing. I think we have heard about monitoring devices. I want to talk about how to do this. If you are going to monitor devices, our recommendation is bring your kids to the table and have a conversation as far as why. There was a case at the National Child Protection Task Force where a friend of mine said, this is a terrible, terrible situation. Parents saw the child doing something that they disagreed with. Rather than having the conversation, they actually stood up a social media account. They were harassing their own kids, and they were hoping to do that so that it would change their behavior. It actually led to suicide. That is not the way to do it. Have a conversation. You have to work together as a team, kids and parents.

There are two different technologies here. One of them is Cyber Dive. What is interesting about them is that you do not have to actually download any endpoint agents. There is no software to download. You have a phone, and you will have access to all the information that is coming in and out of that phone across platforms. Cyber Dive is one that we recommend, especially if you are someone that is like, I really just don't know how to configure monitoring solutions on devices. Next to Cyber Dive is Bark, which is the second time I think has been brought up today. Bark, you do have to install some applications, but it actually covers a lot more platforms to

include social media platforms as well. What is a little bit different between Bark and Cyber Dive, Cyber Dive focuses its algorithms on mental health. You are going to get some of that from Bark. But Bark does tagging based on natural language programming essentially, based on the content that is coming across the wire. How they give you intelligence is a little bit different. I recommend looking at both and figuring out what is best for your family.

Three things that you can do as individuals, all of us. First one is go to Frozen Pii. It is free. Freeze your credit. If I get enough information, I say I, if bad guys get enough information online about you—you got to be careful with that, right? It is very easy to steal your identity and open up accounts. But by freezing your credit, you take their financial gain and opportunity away from them. Completely free, not only across the three major bureaus but some others as well. It is going to protect your social security accounts as well as tax fraud from the IRS. That is a shout out to Thomas O'Malley, former prosecutor. It is his site.

Next, we talked about data brokers, people search sites. You want your data off the internet, as much of it as possible. Canary is Rachel Verbeck's company. Her mission is to make this as available to as many people as possible. You can get your family onto this platform. Its data aggregators buy data and post it online for people like doxers to use. They monitor and delete that data. Finally, invest in some sort of password generator. McAfee is going to have one. I'm going to recommend LastPass. Be sure to protect this. Use multifactor authentication. But this allows you to share secrets with your family, access to applications that is only for the family, all in one place. This is so that password reuse is not really an attack surface that they could take advantage of to get into your accounts.

We have got some special relationships with people in U.S. Special Operations Command, and they have actually passed out some smart cards. We will have a link. We also have some pamphlets that we can provide. It is step by step for each of these platforms, on how not to allow your data to be exposed. By following these smart cards you are going to regain your privacy. You are going to make it so that your information is not as public. Then on the right hand side here, tabletop. That is what we do as a business. We are going to understand the cyber threat landscape. What are the risks, provided our business? What is risk first of all, and what are we here to protect? Then we are going to talk about it. We are going to figure out are we even prepared? How do we measure it? That is the purpose of a tabletop exercise. At home, we call it table talk. It is so important that family members and kids, they work as a unit. At the dinner table, have that conversation. Talk about the things that we don't want to talk about. Right? Talk about how to defend yourselves.

The Cyber Samaritan, it is actually a subsidiary of Advertere. We have had people who have been cyber harassed, celebrities to politicians, to teenagers and family members. They are like, hey, we have tried everything we can to get help. We have no one to turn to. You can come to the Cyber Samaritan. We help you collect online evidence. If they have VPNs, that is fine. There is ways to kind of approach that. We are going to get that collection of evidence. We are going to package it. We are going to make it very easy for the DA to use their subpoena power. We are going to do the analysis. We will tell you what your probabilities are as far as finding someone on the other end. Help you get the help. We also have relationships too.

Some of the things that we have heard, as people say, I'm being cyberbullied or harassed. The worst thing you can tell them is, it is not real. Right? It is in the cyber world. Just ignore it. That is the worst thing that you can tell someone. If you need help, just reach out to us. We will get you the help you need. Okay, thank you so much for your time.

SPARKS: Thank you so much. So much wonderful information.

BRITTON: Thanks for letting us go way over.

FRIEDMAN: Yeah.

SPARKS: We are going to move on to our next speaker. Alright, State Assemblyman Bill Essayli from the 63rd Assembly District. You are on deck.

ESSAYLI: Thank you. Thank you for having me. I do not have a fancy PowerPoint. It is just me, and I won't take up too much time so we can get to our Q&A. Maybe I can add some stuff there. I will just provide sort of a legislative perspective and approach. It is my first year in the Legislature representing my district. Prior to that I was a federal prosecutor at the U.S. Attorney's Office, as well as a Deputy D.A. My perspective and background is more of a prosecutor than a Legislator, currently. Special Agent Torres I think did a great job of providing overview of some of the avenues in which law enforcement pursues these cases.

I want to focus on deterrence. From the prosecutorial perspective, it is really important that we identify the actors. The bad actors who are involved in child exploitation, child trafficking, CSAM, all that stuff, and that they be held accountable. Not only because it is the right thing to do, but because of the deterrence effect it has another people. It is not enough to find them and charge them. It is important that they serve significant lengths of sentences in prison behind bars to send that message clear that we take these seriously. When you are caught, you will suffer severe consequences. The Legislature has had a soft on crime, and an empty the prisons agenda for the last decade. It is their agenda. We have half as many prisoners in California as we used to. We are less safe now than we have ever been. Any effort to toughen up sentences or penalties have been summarily rejected in the Legislature, particularly by the Public Safety Committee, which should not be called that because that is not what they do.

This year it was different. This is the first year we have actually seen some reversal in the trends and traction. That was on Senate Bill 14. SB 14 was the first bill that we have had in recent memory that failed in public safety. The public outcry was so strong, so loud that they were embarrassed into moving the bill forward. The Governor had to actually intervene. SB 14 for those aren't who are not familiar, would have reclassified child sex trafficking as a serious felony in the state of California. What that means, it is not just a word. It actually has legal effect. It means that if you are charged as a serious felony, it is a strike. You will serve 85% of your sentence. If you do it again, your sentence will increase substantially with double. If you do it a third time, you will serve potentially life in prison. Most people now who are convicted on these charges do very little time, even if they are caught doing it on more than one occasion.

I can tell you from the victim perspective. What is important to them is they want to feel safe. They want to know that if they cooperate with law enforcement, which is often the most difficult part of these cases, they are afraid to cooperate with law enforcement. They are afraid to tell their story because they don't want to get hurt. They don't want retaliation. They don't want their family to suffer. If prosecutors and agents cannot guarantee their safety and guarantee that these bad people will be put away for a substantial amount of time, it does impact their ability to work on and successfully prosecute these cases. The deterrence is a big effect. SB 14, I'm happy and proud to announce as a co-author, did pass the Legislature this cycle. It passed the Assembly and the Senate, and it is sitting on the Governor's desk. We do expect him to sign it. That is a huge, tremendous accomplishment, and we hope a sign of future bills to come.

I want to just talk about the issue of fentanyl and online child exploitation. It is huge. It is massive. We don't really know how to deal with it yet. We have several bills that have made their way, or are coming their way. There is a big target that has been set on social media platforms. I have seen several bills now where they want to hold social media platforms accountable for the child exploitation, as well as the fentanyl. While certainly they have a role and there is space for that, I personally do not believe that will be successful. There have been many lawsuits in which the Supreme Court has actually struck down statutes that attempt to hold them liable for activities on their platforms. They have a lot of protection under federal law section 240 and some First Amendment issues. I personally don't think that we are going to be in a place where the social media companies are going to fix this issue.

Frankly, it is hard. As you saw, the predators on there are very sophisticated. They adapt quickly. It is very subtle how they first make contact with them. Unless someone is sitting there reading every single communication, it is very hard to just sort of have a system-wide approach to this. I'm going to give you my personal solution. I will just end with this. I think when you look at the data and the statistics, social media is harmful to children. It really is. You look at the Surgeon General's Report, I think whatever benefits they may derive from social interaction on social media platforms are far outweighed by the harm. I'm not just talking about fentanyl and child exploitation. You look at the mental health effects on our students, the rise in suicide, depression, anxiety, online bullying, women, young girls having body image issues. This is all coming from the internet and social media. My personal view on this is children should not be on social media. Period. End of story.

I know, Utah, I think, was the first state to pass a law to that effect. I hope that will be a bipartisan effort to really seriously look at that. We are not going to be able to regulate these companies. We need to make sure children are off these platforms. They don't need to be on it. They can interact and socialize in-person, like the good old days. I think it is better for them. I think the best comparison and model for us is tobacco.

No one can convince me that tobacco is more harmful to kids than the social media platform. Why don't we treat it the same way? A kid cannot buy tobacco today. It is almost impossible. They can't buy it online. They can't get it in a store. Lawsuits have been filed against tobacco companies. I think if we just apply the same level of aggression that we have applied to tobacco toward this issue, we can make a lot of progress. With that, I will conclude, and we can jump into Q&A. I thank you for inviting me. I thank this particular board for really being so forward

thinking on these issues and proponents of quality education, child safety, and parental rights. I do appreciate that. Thank you.

SPARKS: Well, we thank you. Thank you, and congratulations on your co-authored bill. We are so honored to have you representing and fighting for all the things that you are fighting for up in Sacramento. So, thank you. Thank you for joining us today. This brings us to our next speaker. We have Brenda Lebsack, Educator and Advocate. You are on deck.

LEBSACK: Oh, thank you. He said he would come up and help me out here. I appreciate that. Okay. I think it is coming up. No? Help me out here. Okay, perfect. All right. I'm coming to you as a private citizen with a public concern. I say that because I work in the Orange County school districts, and I don't want to lose my job. But I am speaking about some of these things you have mentioned that I'm seeing. Some huge concerns, I believe we are opening the door to sexual predators in our schools. I'm going to give you my own firsthand experience and what I'm seeing. I will be sharing a lot of insider information with you tonight. I have two websites where you can see the screenshots of books, advice from our crisis hotlines that are given to students, and the documents. The websites are brendaforkids.com; or this one, interfaithforkids.com. Because I started an organization of Jewish rabbis, Muslim imams, Catholic priests, and Protestant clergy, representing many races and language groups throughout California in order to expose what is going on in public education and to oppose deception to parents and the exploitation of children and youth. Please use these resources to be informed and to inform others. I'm starting with a one minute video from the Orange Unified School District that passed a parent notification policy—thank you, Assemblyman Essayli—on September 7.

I just want to show you this quick video. We hope it doesn't take long for the download.

[Video plays.]

VIDEO VOICE 1: Unified School District board member, a teacher in Santa Ana Unified, a state delegate for the California Teachers Association. The Teacher's Union passed a business item saying kids should have access to puberty blockers and hormone therapy without parent knowledge or permission, regardless of their age. CHOC Hospital partners with many Orange County schools. However, parents were never notified that CHOC Hospital has a gender clinic and is medically transitioning nine-year-olds and socially transitioning five-year-olds. The word transgender is actually defined as many genders. In fact, in my district, we have books that tell kindergartners that their gender can change like the weather, based on their feelings and that there are infinite pronouns to choose from.

The Teacher's Union endorsed the drag queen Nun, Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, who mock Catholics. The 988 Suicide Hotline surveys students giving them 11-plus genders to choose from. I support honesty to parents, and I support the parent notification policy. Thank you.

[Video ends.]

LEBSACK: Okay. I know that the music was a little dramatic. Basically, I'm just here to say that a few weeks ago, a Book Mobile showed up from Santa Ana Library at one of my

elementary schools. I work at seven elementary schools, because I'm an adaptive PE teacher. In one of the bookshelves for kindergarten through fifth graders, I found a book titled, "This Book is Gay". The excerpts from the book are this: how to use sex apps, upload a tiny pick of yourself to the app, the app works out your location, the app tells you who the nearest homosexuals are, and then you chat with them. Because they are near, it is easy to meet up with them. The benefits of the sex apps are quick, easy, and uncomplicated sex. You meet interesting people. It makes no difference how many sexual partners you have. On my 16th birthday, I went to hang out at a guitar shop near my house. The owner was older and married. We had been flirting with each other for a few months.

As the morning went on, we got more and more tactile. Is this turning off?

BOYD: (Inaudible).

LEBSACK: Oh. Until we were rubbing crotches against each other. The vocabulary in the book talks about rimming - licking someone's bottom, scat - eating poop, and strap ons - a sex toy worn on a belt. Something they don't teach you in school—I'm still quoting from the book. Something they don't teach you in school is that in order to come, you or your partner need to finish off with a handy. This book, I was so disgusted and upset that after work I went to talk to the librarian from where the Bookmobile comes. I live in Santa Ana by the way. This Bookmobile visits our parks. Remember it is in Santa Ana, our lowest income area, high minority, also to the Santa Ana Zoos where a lot of children visit our Bookmobiles to increase literacy.

When I talked to the director named Brian Sternberg, I asked him, why are books like this in the Bookmobile that come into our elementary schools, parks and zoos? He said he is under a lot of pressure from city commissioners to include them. But he wouldn't give me any names. This book that teaches kids how to give blowies and have hookups is in Mendez Middle School and six high schools in Santa Ana Unified. There is a lot more books like this guys. It is on my website. I want you to look at the kindergarten books, kindergarten through second grade books, the third through fifth grade books, the middle school books and the high school books. They are all here. They are under our noses. We don't have to look anywhere. It is in Orange County. It is going on.

They are teaching kids. They are grooming kids right through our libraries and through our school libraries. One of the required novels in SAUSD ninth grade ethnic studies has been, "The Hate You Give." This book says, "F*** the cops," over and over and over again repeatedly using the N word many times. It talks about females in very derogatory terms. The most disturbing part of the book is when the characters say that because they are so angry and they are filled with so much hate, they are going to start fires. They are going to protest, riot, harm police. They even talk about harming little infants. To view other disturbing books, you can go to my website [interfaith4kids](#) or [brenda4kids](#).

These two books for—okay, I was going to show it to you here on my website. Where is it? I don't want to waste time. But anyways, we have books. In fact, right here. I read it. This book is in a lot of schools here in Orange County. This book is saying, what are your words? It is telling

kids that their gender changes like the weather based on their feelings. There is infinite pronouns to choose from. Okay? Infinite pronouns. On the back of the book you have a kid with a question mark over his head. Why? Because he is confused. In the LGBTQ, Q means queer or questioning. Once a child is questioning, they are automatically given resources for gender dysphoria, meaning that they can access a mental health worker. These mental health workers and counselors in our schools have been trained to only affirm, all and any gender. Okay.

We talk about gender dysphoria, but yet our schools are creating that dysphoria. They are intentionally creating the confusion that our kids are going through. Starting in kindergarten. We have another book. You can see it. It says, “Your Gender Can Change from Day to Day, Year to Year, Moment by Moment.” When I saw these books coming in, I'm like, okay. In my schools, I saw crisis hotlines, even in the kindergarten bathrooms on eye level, in the student bathrooms with the 988 National Suicide Hotline, with the Trevor Project Hotline. I thought, you know what? I'm going to try these out. I texted him. I said, I'm scared. I'm not sure about my gender. I'm scared about puberty. What should I do? The 988 Hotline gave me 11 genders to choose from. Now, parents don't know this. This is a National Suicide Hotline. Okay? Let's see here. I got off my—I need to get back on here somehow. Help me out, Shane. Can you come back over here and help me get back on? For some reason I can't seem to get back. I wanted to show you more pictures. There we go. Okay. Oh, no. Anyways, I wanted to show you more pictures. It is on my website.

Basically, when I went to the National Suicide Hotline, all of these crisis hotlines automatically send you to the Trevor Project. Okay? The Trevor Project then sends you to TrevorSpace. TrevorSpace is an online chat space. It says it is for ages 13 to 24 year olds. We are already mixing children with adults. It says it is on an international platform. Okay? All the things that you just talked about, check mark, check mark, check mark. All the red flags are there. I thought, you know what? I'm going to check it out. I put down that I'm a 13 year old. I went on to Trevor Space. What did I find? I found kids saying I'm lonely and I need a friend. Somebody pops in. Who? I will be your friend. Then I see clubs. The first one I see, the Witchcraft Club. Then I see the Furies United Club. This is where kids can pretend to be animals and chat with each other. Then I see the Chosen Family Club. This is, hey, your parents don't understand you. We will be your family. We will be your siblings. We will be your mom and dad. Isn't that what cults do? Okay, then we have the Gay Men's Club. The tagline is, let's talk about boys exclamation point.

People, they are not hiding it. They are not hiding it. It is right here under our noses. They can use their Chromebooks to access it. Their own Chromebooks given to them by the school district. Then we have regression space. Regression space is age identity. That means you can choose to be any age you perceive to be. That means a 50-year-old man can perceive to be a 13-year-old girl. We have non-binary pals. Non-binary, by the way, even though it is the third dropdown on our student data sheets, nobody has told our parents what non-binary really means. According to the Center of Disease Control, non-binary means gender creative, which means a child can create or make up their own gender. Okay? According to our Safe School Climate standards put out by the Southern Poverty Law Center, it means boundless identities. Boundless. Thank you.

SPARKS: Thank you, Brenda. Lots of great information there. My age identity is going to be 29. How about that? Okay. We have our last speaker. Our cleanup speaker, Toni Mckinley, Executive Director from the Magdalene House of Austin, Texas. Toni.

MCKINLEY: Hi. Thank you. Tonight I'm going to talk about the toll that fentanyl has had on my life and the work that I do. I work with victims of sex trafficking and run a two-year transitional home. I see this every day in the woman that we work with. How drug coercion is used to get them to comply with the demands that their trafficker wants. But unfortunately, it has had just a harder, tougher spot in my life. I was not going to focus on this since we went through. I wanted to talk about the dangers of fentanyl, but we learned about that earlier. I'm going to skip through some of this. These are pictures that you have already seen and how lethal it is.

What I want to talk about is trauma and how trauma is really the gateway drug. According to the Children's Mental Health Network and the ACEs study, which is adverse childhood experiences. It points out that people who have experienced a lot of trauma in childhood are more likely to abuse alcohol, use illicit substances, and IV drugs. This is what we are seeing with kids who are trafficked. Not only being coerced to use these drugs, but also really needing them because of the anxiety, the stress, the night terrors, the panic attacks, the shame that they feel. It really does get them through that. But the problem is, is that we don't get to just do a drug anymore nowadays and get to the other side. As you learned earlier, fentanyl is a poison. It is killing approximately 150 people a day of all ages. As you heard earlier, the number one killer here in Orange County for teens that are dying, it is no longer other things. It is fentanyl.

I want to kind of take a turn here and talk about this on a more personal level. July 4, 2022, I found my daughter nonresponsive in her bedroom, in her room. She is no longer with us today. She did not make it. As I was going through her things, I found this letter that she wrote. I don't know how long ago she wrote it, how long ago it was. But it starts out saying, "Dear Xanax." As we learned, Xanax right now, it is not Xanax. It is just pure fentanyl. She says, "Dear Xanax," and I'm reading this because I want you to understand and have more compassion for people who are struggling with substance use disorder or addiction. These are kids, generally, many of them have lived very good lives. You are going to learn that more about my daughter.

So, "Dear Xanax, I found you in a time of need when I was 14, a young, scared teenager. I was three months pregnant due to being raped by a friend that I trusted. I told my best friend while having a panic attack, and she held out her hand and said, here, take this and everything will be okay. I took the white pill she held and soon fell asleep. She was right. I was okay. You made me feel like I was getting a warm hug from someone that loved me, from someone who had never hurt me. I needed more of you. The next few days I didn't spend a moment without you. We went everywhere together. Soon the day came when I had my miscarriage, and I saw the harm that you could cause. After thinking that was the worst you could do, I saw you again to fix the pain of my loss. My love, you hold me when I'm sad. You warm me when I'm cold, and you find me when I'm lost. Rely on me today, and I will do all the work you tell me. Holding you in my hand I could do anything.

You got me through abusive relationships, trauma, and mental health problems. You needed a lot of my time and money. You began to put me in hospitals for overdoses multiple times a month.

Yet, I still fell for you every day. You lied to me and say, don't worry. We will figure it out later. Pill by pill we have the same monthly drill. Hospital bills stacked up. How do I pay for you now? I would ask myself, you made me work at strip clubs every night for months, starting at 17 years old. My body covered in bruises. My liver worn from drinking. It was all okay though because I had you to get me through it, right? I was wrong. You made me oblivious to selling my body and dancing on stages for so long that my body would hurt, to meeting different men and women that only wanted to touch me.

Soon, all I knew was sex. Everyone wanted me, but nobody wanted to see me. Nobody knew who I was, including me. What did I become? I swear I didn't mean to do this. I wanted to get rid of you, and I swear I tried. But every time you left, I got so sick. I would be in hospitals again. What is going on? I don't understand. We played a game of tag for a few years until I went to jail. It took a few different jails and rehabs to realize I didn't need you. I wanted to be completely free from you. I need you to leave for I know the love I deserve. You hurt me the most. It is time for me to go, and I hope we never meet again. From, the new me.”

At age 23 years old is when she finally gained nine months sobriety. I let her move back in with me with promise of going on a waiting list for a home for women who have been exploited and trafficked so she could get the proper help for her mental health that she needed. She stayed with me. But in that nine months, something happened. I don't know what it is, but she relapsed. Now, trauma influences individuals and leads them to substances. It is a lasting emotional response, often resulting from a horrible event that happens to them. It harms a person's sense of safety, their ability to regulate emotions, their ability to navigate relationships in their life. It can be very difficult to reach someone and get through to them when you are offering them help and trying to get them help for the trauma they are suffering through. Instead, it is easier to turn to substances.

The psychological effects from trauma are anxiety, depression, flashbacks, nightmares, hypervigilance, emotional numbness. This is why things like Xanax, which is now fentanyl, feel so good. You can't sleep at night. You are losing sleep. You can't think. You don't have healthy relationships. Your emotions are everywhere. These symptoms can make life challenging. It is hard to complete school, go to school, wake up in the morning because you are up all night. It evokes intense emotions when you have had trauma, especially sex trafficking trauma. Substance use may seem like a temporary escape for those who are struggling with this. It is a temporary escape, as you heard in the beginning of my daughter's letter. How much it made her feel good. How it helped her relax.

They hope that these substances will numb them and their emotions. With the women that I work with who have been sex trafficked, that is the hardest part. Now I can't numb myself with drugs. I have to feel this all over again. Recovering from trauma, it is so difficult. Often it offers immediate relief from these emotions. It is a short-term effect that is ending our children's lives, using substances. Strategies for aiding and supporting individuals with them are empathy and non-judgment. Really just sitting, listening, and hearing their story. Hearing their reasoning without judging them on why would you do this? Why would you take this? Asking those why questions that create a lot of shame. Instead, using techniques like motivational interviewing, which anyone can get trained in. You don't have to be a licensed counselor to do.

Helping them discover what is that core issue that I'm struggling with. Surrounding them with the support that they need in order to get the healing to be able to be sober from this so that they can move on in their life and live their goals and their dreams. Because right now, fentanyl is not allowing that to happen. Fentanyl is stopping people from being able to recover from their trauma. It is killing them, or it is causing severe brain damage. They can't get to them soon enough because there is so much fentanyl in these pills. It is not getting the chance. My daughter did not get a chance to be a mother, which she has always expressed. My one kid out of four who wanted to be a mom. She didn't get a chance to find a job, go back to school, figure out what she would like to do in life. None of these kids that are dying from this are getting a chance to do that, and their life is being stolen from them.

Education helps. Children need to understand what this does, what it does to their body, and what they are taking. Many of them do not know that fentanyl is in these pills. It just takes one. It only takes one pill for a child to die. One pill and it destroys a family, their parents, their siblings, their friends. They all struggle tremendously. We have got to educate kids, and we have got to have kids educate kids. Not necessarily people like me, an old person, right, we have got to have kids educating kids. Creating teams in these schools to teach other kids what you are taking when you are at that party and someone offers you a Xanax because you are feeling depressed today. Right? Or offers you a Percocet or a Valium because you are not doing well today. Thinking it looks just like it comes from the pharmacy, so they think it is okay. Set realistic goals. Set achievable goals with individuals and promote a sense of accomplishment. Motivate them as they progress through these baby steps that they take with getting sober off of fentanyl and other drugs that have fentanyl. I don't know. Oh, I think I need to go back. I want to end this with a video of my daughter that we played at her funeral of her life. I want you to know that it affects people from all walks of life.

I wasn't the perfect mother, but I was a very protective mother. I have been through a lot in my life, and I didn't want my daughter to experience what I have experienced. I wasn't a mom that—I don't know. However you would categorize someone that didn't do that well. She got a lot of attention in her life. She taught herself piano, which you are going to see her play. She doesn't know how to read notes, but she can play all the classical music from *Pride and Prejudice*. She taught that herself just by listening. She taught herself sign language and started translating for preschool kids because her cousin was going deaf. She wanted to be able to talk to her. This is a kid that just happened to experience a horrific trauma that she didn't know how to overcome. For some reason took the advice of a friend and took a pill. That is all it took to get her started and get her addicted. It led her into a life of heartache.

But this video isn't just about my daughter. It is about all those kids out there just like her that deserved a chance at life and didn't get it. I want you to remember that as you watch this. If we can get it to play. Oh, okay, here we go.

[Video is presented.]

WORDS DISPLAYED IN VIDEO: In loving memory of Jessica Mckinley. It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our dear daughter, sister, cousin, niece and friend, Jessica Carol Mckinley. Jessica was born on June 17, 1999, in Chandler, Arizona. She spent the

majority of her life in Austin, TX and is survived by her mother, Toni Mckinley-Moore and father, Craig Mckinley, 3 siblings; Brittney, William and Matthew and her beloved cat, Moo. Jessica has touched so many people's lives in her short time here. She loved nature and animals. She had a colorful and adventurous personality.

Jessica was so smart! She taught herself sign language, Spanish, and piano, starting at a young age and had dreams of attending The Juilliard School of Music. People knew and loved Jessica for how comfortable they felt around her. She was loving, accepting, and easy to talk to. She was a great listener and made people laugh. Jessica was unapologetically herself. She will be missed so much! In loving memory of Jessica Mckinley.

[Video ends.]

MCKINLEY: I hope that as you watch that, that you know that it is not just about one person. We are talking about hundreds of lives that are stolen because they have been poisoned by fentanyl. But together, if we can come together, we can turn a tragedy, such as something like this, into a powerful force for change. By spreading awareness, offering support, and hope in the battle against the dangers of fentanyl so that no other parent has to endure the heartache that we are going through. She will forever be 23 years old. In our united efforts, we can discover the resilience to keep moving forward. Every life lost reminds us of the urgent need to protect those that we love. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share that with you today.

SPARKS: Thank you for sharing with us. We are running a few minutes behind on time. We had so many compelling stories. I'm going to shift to our trustees. Each trustee will be able to ask one question. I think that is all we have time for. Then we will wrap up the forum. Then we will have—do we have any public comments? Okay. All right. I will start to my far left. Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Wow. Okay. That was quite moving. I have a really simple question, so I'm just going to make a couple comments. My simple question is I hope that all of you will share your slides with us. I think all of you had terrific slides. As great as our video is for everyone, I think having access to the slideshow would really be helpful to a lot of people. I appreciate that. I just want to thank everyone for your bravery, for sharing your story. I know how hard that must be as a mother. I want to thank Assemblyman Essayli because he is very humble in his great work. He does great work in our Legislature. He doesn't get support from his colleagues. He does things like, he writes bills like AB 1314. Even though his colleagues wouldn't even listen to it, we did pass a resolution in favor of it because we appreciate your work. We hope that despite your lack of support there, we hope you will get more.

We will always support you here and the great work you do. Tory, the great work you are doing. The Sheriff's Department, you gentlemen, we just appreciate you sharing such great information. I think every bit of it tonight was really important to us and to our audience. Thank you for being here and for sharing.

SPARKS: Thank you. Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: I echo the same sentiments as Mari does. Let me just start and say, Toni, that was quite moving. You brought me to tears. Thank you for sharing that. To Brenda, as usual, you are filled with a lot of energy. What you present is very significant and impactful. Thank you for exposing the truth out there. To Assemblyman Bill, you are our hero. We honor you. We thank you for the time that you have taken to come to Orange County to share with us from a prosecutor's perspective and from the Assembly perspective. This clear lack of attacking crime at the central part, which I think your bill, AB 1314 does. It says, parents, you are to be involved in your children's lives. Thank you for that. For Matt and Jack, your presentation was just spot on and very meaningful. Please, if you can, Nina, make sure that we can have access to that. There is so much good information in there. To the good Deputy Gunsolley, thank you for being here sir. Thank you for your words and sharing with us. I did not know how much fentanyl was required for an overdose. That is just absolutely incredible.

Lastly, my question is to Special Agent Tory. Brenda talked about the TrevorSpace. I'm always fascinated because I always hear a lot about TrevorSpace. The fact that you can have a 13 and a 24-year-old without any identification, get into a chat space and talk and communicate. The act of grooming a child certainly is potentially there. How much do you see TrevorSpace playing a role in leading to the human trafficking? If you could come up to the podium here?

TORRES: Unfortunately, I have not heard of that platform, so I am not sure about the implications of that specific social media platform.

WILLIAMS: Are there any other similar platforms where anybody could get in without any age identification, without any oversight, parental consent or knowledge?

TORRES: I think that anyone can put in a certain age on social media. There is no verification process from a lot of these social media sites. I know that there are some chat rooms that they make you say upon entering that you are 18 years old. They are trying to manage it, but I don't think that they feel there is a responsibility to verify age. From what we see, it is across all platforms. Where groomers are going in, and they are either pretending to be minors, or they are simply saying they are adults and still able to have these conversations.

WILLIAMS: Brenda, could you come up to here and tell us what TrevorSpace is again? Define it. Special Agent Torres, let me encourage you. Talk with Brenda about it.

TORRES: Yeah.

LEBSACK: TrevorSpace is an extension of Trevor Project. Trevor Project is an LGBTQ Suicide Hotline. We have many, many crisis hotlines. Also, through the Orange County Healthcare Agency, we also have teen.org. I have tried out most of them pretending to be a child. Once you say you are confused, you are in the Q category, of either your agenda or sexuality, you are automatically referred to Trevor Project. It is just a given. Teen.org is where teens counsel teens. Even though I do appreciate what you said, that teens need to help teens. When I went on teen.org, it is operated between the times of 6-9 online, or texting. I was getting really crazy advice. I said I identified, and I tried to be as sincere as I could when I said it, that I feel like I might be a vampire cat. They affirmed that.

They basically said, whatever you feel you are, you should be. When I asked on the teen.org line, I said, I'm really lonely and I need a friend. Is it okay if I share my cell number on TrevorSpace? They said, build trust first. They are basically telling kids to share their cell numbers. Gays Against Groomers did an investigation about it as well. They wrote an article about it called, "The Pedophiles Paradise." They saw kids sharing their locations. I hope that helps. But these are available through our schools.

SPARKS: Thank you.

WILLIAMS: I'm done.

SPARKS: Okay. Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Thank you. I came tonight bracing myself to be shocked and frightened. It was still shocking and frightening. I, too, want to thank the panel for all you have taught us and your examples. I'm looking forward to going home and giving my kids a hug. I wonder if I could ask Assemblyman Essayli a question. Brenda read from some books, and I'm sure everyone in this room was made uncomfortable as I was listening to that. Apparently these books are being made available to elementary school children. Now, local school districts may object to the placing of those books in their schools. But your colleagues passed a bill here, Assembly Bill 1078 this year. It says a local school district can't take those kind of books out of their library, out of their school. Could you speak perhaps to the legality, what might be done? Can you speak to that bill and what that looks like going forward perhaps?

ESSAYLI: It is a terrible bill. I think it is very convoluted and complicated. The Governor has yet to sign it, so we will see. What it is going to do is set up some sort of appellate process, is my understanding of the bill. If a school bans a book and someone challenges the banning of book, saying it is needed for cultural reasons or for other reasons, that they can then appeal it. The problem though is there is no real due process. The person you appeal it to, I have to look at the bill, it is either the County Superintendent or the State Superintendent. I forget, but it is going to be some bureaucrat who is then going to make a determination. I would encourage school districts to challenge this law. I think they are usurping their authority as elected officials to govern their independent boards and bodies. This is a trend we have seen in Sacramento. I think it is very anti-democratic, to use their language.

You have duly elected members on school boards, and they should be the ones charged with and making these decisions. That bill likely, I think the Governor will sign it. I hope it gets challenged in court. But there is a concerted effort to assault the rights of local school boards and to water down their powers and authorities. We need to fight that strongly. I do think the California Constitution is written in a way to reinforce and protect local control. We have to fight that tooth and nail. We cannot surrender to Sacramento. Absolutely not.

SHAW: Do you support the idea perhaps, Brenda laid it out here this evening, standing up at the microphone and just reading verbatim these books and humiliating them at their meetings? Why does anyone think it is a good idea to have elementary school children reading such things? I don't understand that.

ESSAYLI: It is really funny because people do come to the committee hearings and they read these books. When they are asked directly about it, they say, “I don't know that book. I don't know what you are talking about.” They always pretend to not know what you are talking about. They know exactly what we are talking about. But they have phrased this issue, they framed it in a way where we are sort of erasing history or we are marginalizing groups. That is not what we are talking about here. We are talking about elected officials being able to decide what is age appropriate, what is appropriate for their community. We are not banning history books here. You are banning pornography or other salacious types of books. They will often lie and say they are doing it for another purpose. But when you confront them with the truths and the facts, which I encourage people to do. Our founding fathers always said that the truth is a stubborn thing. Just keep repeating it, and it will come to the top.

Ultimately, I turn to the people. You elect these people. You elect every single member of the Legislature every two years, all 80 of them. If you don't like it, then do something about it. I don't care what party you are in. That is not a partisan statement. I hope that answers your question.

SHAW: I want to thank, Assemblyman Essayli. He officially represents western Riverside County, but we have officially adopted you as a resident of Orange County. Thank you.

ESSAYLI: I travel all over the state. Happy to do it.

SPARKS: Thank you so much. Because we are out of time, I'm going to wrap up. Then we will close out the meeting. Do we have any public comments?

BOYD: We have none.

SPARKS: We have none. Okay. Then we will wrap up, and then we will finish off with having a picture of our speakers. The staff will take a group picture of all of us. Thank you all so much. We got so much amazing information for our parents, our community members tonight. Just a wide array of information, which really served in my mind the purpose that I had for this forum. Which was to shed light on savvy safety in public schools; to shed light on the risks, the signs and symptoms of fentanyl exposure, use, potential abuse, signs and symptoms of school-age sexual assault, human trafficking, and potential trafficking rings in our community, increasing understanding of potential surveillance, social media and cyber safety measures in an effort to inform parents and community members on what to look for and what to potentially adopt in their own home and school settings.

The forum obviously was geared toward community members, parents, students, teachers, and people of our community interested in learning more about all these issues. I will just wrap up by saying we all obviously have a shared interest in ensuring our school communities are safe, that students feel safe, that parents feel safe. We are committed to collaborating with our law enforcement partners, our school districts, and families to enhance public safety in our schools from every angle possible. I think that was very evident tonight. Thank you all so much for your time. Thank you for the audience members for taking time to be here. Thank you for those who are watching on YouTube. We will make all the materials available on our website, the Orange

County Board of Education, as well as the YouTube video from tonight. Hopefully we can inform as many community members as possible. I will toss it back to you, President Shaw.

BARKE: Can I just make a quick comment?

SPARKS: Yes.

BARKE: I think I didn't thank you, Brenda. Your work is tireless. I just remembered going through everybody. I didn't mean to do that, but I think I was so overwhelmed by the film. Thank you for everything you do every day to protect our children.

LEBSACK: Thank you.

SHAW: Thank you. I think we are going to meet next on October 4?

BOYD: That would be correct.

SHAW: Wonderful. We will stand adjourned and we will reconvene October 4, here at 5:00 PM. Is that right?

BOYD: As you adjourn, the panelists, if you all will come to the front? The Board will meet you.