[Please stand by for real-time captions.]

That afternoon and welcome to the webinar. My name is Jamie and I will be the host of today's webinar, including Ashley Dolin who is going to be doing technical support. If you have any questions send them over to Ashley. Our presenters today are the head of an search -- research at Stephen Austin State University. He says he always enjoys sharing great informational resources in forms such as these. We are very glad to have him here. Before we get started I am going to walk you through a few of our housekeeping reminders. If you have any questions you would like to ask or if you have any technical issues, please feel free to chat them in the chat box on the bottom right-hand corner of the screen. I will keep track of all of the questions. At the end Edward will respond to each. We are also recording the session and we will email an link to everyone registered for this webinar. We will be sending out a certificate of participation using the email address that you used to register for today's webinar. If anyone needs additional certificates because multiple people watched with you please email me and include the title of today's webinar along with the names and email addresses of those who need certificates. If you need to do in on the slide you can click on the full screen button on the bottom left side of your screen. To exit full screen mouse over the blue bar at the top of the screen, then click on the blue return button.

At the end of the session we are going to be sharing a webinar satisfaction survey with you. A URL will appear in the chat box. We would very much appreciate your feedback including comments on the presentation style and value of the webinar. With that I'm going to hand things over to Edward. Thank you.

Thank you very much. Good afternoon, everyone. I work at Stephen F Austin State University, go-go lumberjacks! Thank you for signing up. I encourage you to explore this website after the webinar. I am going to start with several slides and then I will switch to a live demonstration of the website. On the first slide you see my name and contact information. You are certainly welcome to email me after the presentation. In addition, please send me your own comments and questions.

On the second slide I will briefly cover the background of the children's Bureau, in case you are not familiar. I will also cover disclaimers about the information people can find on this website. Third, I will give you a tour of the website and use the menu headings at the top of the screen for navigation. Lastly, I will answer any questions that you may have.

Very briefly, the children's Bureau was created in 1912 to focus on child and family well-being. In the current structure, the Bureau is a part of the administration for children and families, which in turn is part of the US department health and human services. Regarding the disclaimers and clarifications, the Bureau's website focuses on data, policies, and legal resources on the national level. They will also include data on the state level. I am also going to show you the frequently asked questions section. These provide referrals, they do not provide direct legal advice. In addition as you will see from number one on the slide the Bureau states most child welfare services are provided at the state level and not the federal level. If you are interested in knowing more about chow wherever law in your state or services you should look for that information at the state, government level, specifically the agency responsible for child welfare.

In Texas the agency with the authority and responsibility is the Texas department of family and protective services. Also, the website for the state agency for your state will provide more decal -- detail on the local level. Area, county, and even city, however, even though the state data is not on the children's website, all state agencies report this data to the children's Bureau.

Now we are going to switch to the website. You should see on your screens right now the website for the children's Bureau. The web addresses at the top of the screen. We are on the website. I am going to navigate with the menu items at the top of the page. I am going to go left-right. We are on the homepage, I would like to show you the FAQ section. It is below the fold or the first half of the screen. You might not see it when you first arrive at the page. I am going to scroll down and show you the frequently asked questions. Over on the right-hand side is where it says get answers to frequently asked questions. It says browse by category. I am going to click on view. When we are on the next screen you are going to see on the right-hand side 48 questions for child welfare. That number will change, depending on when they update the content. For right now it is 48 questions, about 10 per screen. You are going to see the questions on the right. On the left you are going to see questions by category. What I am going to do, these are questions the children's Bureau have received or the types of questions they have received. I am going to show you on the right-hand side some of the sample frequently asked questions. You are going to see different types of questions coming up. If you take a look at questions one, two, and three, these are different issues with child welfare. These do not provide direct advice, they will advise people where to go to get assistance in these types of circumstances. By the way, people can also submit questions to the Bureau if they would like to do so. I am going to take some sample questions. The first is question number four: my child is being bullied and/or abused in school and the school administration is downplaying the issue. What can I do? I am going to click on the right-hand side to get the beginning of this answer. If you take a look right now it is going to say read more, I am going to click here to show you what the full answer is. It does not look like it is much of a reply. When you start to read through you will understand and where you need to go. Most of it is handled on the state level. In the second paragraph it will talk about department of education and office of civil rights. I am going to go to the first paragraph. Most of it is handled by state legislation. I will click on the state anti-bullying law and policy. Once you are on this page they will introduce the topic. I cannot go into great detail today, but you can read through how it is set up and how people can address the issue.

If you keep going down the page you will see there is no federal law that specifically applies to bullying, here are the state anti-bullying laws and policies. You can browse by map or by name. I am going to click on the plus to show you how the states will differ. In some cases you are going to see on the legend below if it is in blue the state has laws and policies. If it is read that means laws only, if it is green that means policy only. For example, in this case Texas is laws only. Most of the states in the US have laws and policies about bullying. If I click on Texas you will see more details analysis of what state laws prohibit. If you go down the page further you will see references to where you can find more information in state code. The majority in Texas is in the Texas state code. As I go back to the top of the page I am just going to go back up to the question. There is one more that I want to show you as an example. Number four was bullying, I am going to look at number eight, what available resources are available for youth transition in foster care? That usually means children in foster care who have reached the age of 18 and have not been legally adopted. What resources are available for those children? I am going to click on

the plus button. What you will see as we have more information in the introduction. You will click on read more. As you go down the page it is going to be the third paragraph. There are more links in here, there are also links to national organizations and other federal agencies who can give you more information. You are going to see the frequently asked questions in every major section as you go through this website. I wanted to introduce you, because it starts on the homepage. What I am going to do at this point, I am going to click on the home button. We did have breadcrumbs and I always need them myself. I am going to go to the about section and click on the link to show you more about the agency. This is the background of the children's Bureau. This provides a lot more detail about when they started, what their purpose was, and how the agency has evolved. As you go down the screen you will see other types of historical cereals. Also, if I go down further different current initiatives. There is a section called for the press. These questions will rotate periodically. These are some of the more popular questions people have asked to the agency search engine. This will change probably in the next few weeks.

As I go back up the page, something else will also start to appear. I am going back to the very top. On the right-hand side you are going to see something called find more in a resource library. This will also start to appear. I am going to click on the resource library to show you what is there. On the left-hand side you have resources by category. On the right-hand side these are the more frequent searches people have done of the website. They have also provided that information here. The resource library is almost a tour in itself.

The next part of the website I'm going to discuss are the focus areas. There are eight, at the very top I am going to click on focus areas. These are the primary focus areas. I am going to show these to you first. For each of these the Bureau provides additional funding to supplement state agency funding. The Bureau also tracks data, discusses monitoring standards and conducts research in all of these focus areas. They also advise the state agency on all of these areas. If the agencies have a question or need clarification the children's Bureau is the agency to consult and advise. For each section I will provide the highlights. I encourage you to explore topic areas that interest you after the webinar. There is a lot of important information. I want to start with one of the primary areas: adoption. When I click on adoption you will first see descriptions of the main adoption program. There is a reference, if you have not seen it before it is title IV E. I'm going to click on it to show you what it means. Title IV E were first to title IV E of the Social Security act. This guides the agency about adoption policy. There is a lot of information here about title IV E. You will also see adoption opportunity and training. Going further down you see incentives and adoption supporting systems. I would like to direct your attention, you see a link called adoption and foster care analysis and reporting. I will cover that more in another section. You will also see resources for clearinghouses, training, outcome reports to Congress about adoption, adoption savings, quite a lot here that you can use. This is In addition to the adoption resources at the state level. There is also something that is very interesting call the adoption excellence award that our success stories of adoption.

This is the first area. The next focus area I will talk about child abuse and neglect. You will see resources for programs, data searches, special reports, grants for programs to prevent child abuse and neglect. If you go down the page this is another to mention, the child abuse and neglect supporting systems. There are other types of reports as well another archiving reports that you will see. Other collaborative efforts between federal agencies and other organizations. I am going

to go back up the page again, I'm going to go back into the focus area to talk about foster care. In the foster care system there are also links to legal systems. You can also see the reporting down below. There are specific programs for foster care that you can learn more about. How to become a foster parent, there is quite a lot of information. This is from a state agency that will provide other types of resources as well. If you go down further you will see the foster care reporting system. I am going to talk about another one called the national youth and transition database. I am going to mention it. There is a section that has all of these put together and that is one of the reasons I am waiting a little bit on talking about some of them. You will see other types of technical assistance. There are also sections on success stories. Within the focus area I am going to talk about two other focus issues. I want to talk about guardianship. There is titles about legal guardianship. There is also a child welfare manual intended more for practitioners and policymakers. Anyone who is interested might also want to look at this resource. The other area I want to focus on is tribes. There is a significant amount of overlap between tribes another legal jurisdictions. There are some guidelines that apply to tribal organizations, consortia, and tribal jurisdiction areas. If you go through and look at some of these different areas you will see so. For example tribes with a title IV E plan you will find discretionary grants. There is a lot of overlap. In most cases tribes have different policies and this is the area where you would find that information. The next section is grants. I am going to show you the grant section of the children's Bureau. State agencies provide grants and the children's Bureau will also provide grants. In some cases they will provide them to organizations, in some cases the state agencies themselves who will then administer.

The section I would like to show you his general funding information. This is where you will get more information to apply to be a grant reviewer. If you want to know more about grants in general I think this is a terrific resource. You will also find how to apply. Remember, the state level agencies are another source of friends. The next section is programs. There are resources for funding opportunities. If you go further down you can link into the grant library of the children's Bureau. I am not going to go into much more detail. Over on the right-hand side under featured resources you will see children's Bureau discretionary grant library. You're going to see how to assessed and how to collaborate. One of the areas I want to show our resource centers, quality improvement centers. This is where anyone working in China where first services can process and evaluate services. If you are interested I recommend you look through the section in more detail.

The next section is something I found very interesting. This is one when you see it you might be surprised. The section for laws and policies. You are going to see what is new in policy. You are going to see the child welfare policy manual. You will see policies and program issuance. It is this section that I would like to show you in more detail. When I click on policy resources it will give you some background. The one I want to show you is called state statue search. When we click on it this grade will come up. It will say if you are looking for state statues on child welfare or child well-being, this is all US states and all US territories. I do not recommend you select all states. Since I live in Texas I will restrict it to Texas. It starts in Alabama, I am going to scroll down until I get to Texas. I am going to select Texas. It was say do you want to select all topics? Not. As you go through, there are three sections of state statues. Child abuse and neglect, and here are the ones to look for in that area. If you go further there is child welfare. You can check off any of these that you want to. The ones here are safe haven laws. I am going to go down to

adoption and select four in Texas: access to adoption records, I am going to go down to consent to adoption, further to use of advertising and facilitators in adoptive placement. I am going to click on who may adopt, be adopted, or place a child for adoption. Once I've selected these for Texas I am going to click on go. All of the states will have laws that cover these, but because different states may have them in different parts of their code. It is telling me this is the first one that I have selected. Two things I need to point out look down where it says current through June 2015. You should probably consult state code to ensure this is current. One of the reasons that I like this resource is because this avoids the needle in the haystack. If you look through your own state code to confirm whether something has been updated that will give you the most current information. I think this is a very good starting point. In some cases these laws will not change every time the legislature meets. It is always important to check. This is something that just kind of flew past me. It says under the category I have selected it says the better understand this issue and the wood across the state download the PDF of this publication. What you are saying is I am looking at Texas, but the question is how does Texas relate to other states? All states have a lot on adoption records. If I click on the PDF it is a 60 page document that gives you the background of this law and of this issue. We are not going to look through all 60 pages. These are some of the issues to look at as I go down the page. They bring up the general issues, they will discuss trends, and then they will start. Then it starts with Alabama and goes all the way to Texas. We are not going through all of this. This is just to show you if you want to see how one state relates to another, use the PDF. I'm going to go a little further down now.

I am going to scroll down to consent to adoption through March 2017. These different sections have been updated at different times and this is where you would find this in the Texas family code. With your state it could be in another part of the code. This is something to keep in mind as you do a state statue search. There is a lot of good information. What I'm going to do now is go back to the homepage. We talked about law and policy. I am going to go to the monitoring section. The monitoring section will cover assessment and evaluation of service. The last section is the one, it is not that I am necessarily saving the best in last. I think if you are looking for data on child well-being, adoption, foster care, go to the section for research, data and technology. When I click on this link you will see reporting systems are here. You will see state and travel information systems. The one area you may be interested in is statistics and research. What you will find is you have adoption and foster care statistics, but you will also report about state child welfare expenditures and how the different states compare. The outcome, child maltreatment reports, I am going to show you that one last. I want to go back to the top and click on adoption and foster care.

This is something I want to walk you through. I Missing this the first couple times. What you will do is first of all, this is probably one of the most important resources. I am going to show you. If you are looking for national and state level statistics this is the place to go. I am going to show you what the infographics looks like. I am going to scroll down the page. There are seven categories on the national level. This is updated through 2018. What you will see here, you will see the definition of what they mean by served. As I am moving across you will actually see the data changing. That is a nice feature. You will also see going across in terms of entered this is the national data and not state data. This is what you will see as I moved to the right on each of these blocks. You will see the definition of how they define waiting for adoption. You also see parental rights terminated and how that is changing. Down below you will also see what is here.

I am not going to go too much. This is just a nice infographics of all of these about foster care and adoption. The question is what about the state? Right here it says the national data set and state data tables are available for download. This will pull up an Excel file. I will keep my fingers crossed that this will work. I am using chrome by the way. This is what you are going to find. You are going to see definitions. This is how they will define their statistics. Down below you are going to see the tabs. What you are going to see for each of the states, this is the last 10 years of children's who have been served either with adoption. I am not scrolling down to Texas, I think we would probably lose something with the headings. Here are the trends that you see. As I go down further I am going to try to show the number of children who have exited the system. You will see the changes for California and all the other states. If I see for example the number of children adopted you will also see the number of children who have been adopted. In some states it increases, in some states it decreases. You can go to the state level and get more data that way. I am going to close out the file. I think that works. That is on the state data table. There is a lot of good data here in this section. At this point I am going to show you one other.

Statistics and research, you will also find the expenditures, I am going to scroll down the page. I want to show you the national youth in transition database. These are children who have aged out of foster care. When I click on this resource it is going to be set and the most current will be that a brief 7. This actually has more current data. I am going to click on the PDF. This is not comprehensive data. This will talk about the issues that they found for children who have aged out of the foster care system. They will discuss the kinds of issues they have had. This is not a complete national data survey. This can give you backgrounds. The briefs will vary in terms of what they found overtime. You might want to start with number one and go through number seven.

This is the website in a nutshell. What I am going to do at this point, Jamie, do you want me to stop sharing at this point? At this point do you have any questions? It is kind of like when I teach a class and I ask students if they have any questions.

We have a question for Mark: does the agency provide statistics going further back than 10 years?

That is a good question. They may in some of the archives, but from what I've seen they generally do the past 10 years.

If you have any other questions, chat them in the chat box. Ashley has pushed out the webinar satisfaction survey. If you would not mind, it helps us with programming here at GPO . We will hold on the line for any more questions.

I have a question: do any of you use the state agency to pull up data for patron questions? That is interesting. I know I have gotten questions in the past. I know from some social work students, sometimes they will say what is the data about children who happen removed from their homes? What kinds of data is available? What is the rate of return from foster care back to their original homes? Some of the data is very interesting. The Texas Department of family and protective services keeps that kind of service. They will report how many children have gone back to their family in different parts of the state. These are very good comments, thank you for posting.

Is there information on who are the agents?

You mean the names of specific agents?

Yes.

Are you talking the agency or state level?

State level.

You may find that on the state government website. I have never had that question before. There may be privacy issues about that.

Ashley, if you could push that survey for us one more time, please.

Are the state agencies?

In other words is there anything of state agencies? Can you find out from the website about which state agency is responsible for child welfare? To answer your question, yes. The website, I believe it is in the focus area where they provide which state agencies are in each state. That information is on the website.

Ashley has sent out the survey one more time. We are going to go ahead and wrap it up. I just wanted to thank Edward for presenting and I want to thank all participants for joining us. We look forward to seeing you at the next webinar. Thank you.

Thank you all for attending.

[Event Concluded]