



# National Forum for Background Checks

AHFSA Annual Conference  
Background Screening Interest Track  
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## **Screening Programs, Vulnerable Populations and Media Reporting**

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# Screening Programs and Media Reports

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- ▶ Florida History - Taylor Haddock
- ▶ West Virginia Successes – Meghan Shears
- ▶ The Forum Response Kit – James Joslin



# Screening Programs and Media Reports

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## Fundamentals:

- ▶ Be Prepared
- ▶ Find the Loopholes
- ▶ Ask Questions
- ▶ Be Proactive
- ▶ Collaboration
- ▶ Spread the Word



# Screening Programs and Media Reports

## ▶ Be Prepared

- ▶ Do your research – **Is there a loophole?**
  - ▶ Could background screening (or a particular aspect) have made a difference?
- ▶ Prepare a response (if appropriate)
  - ▶ In the event you get calls ...be ready to respond
- ▶ Keep notes
  - ▶ Use examples for justification for legislation
- ▶ Have legislation ready



# Screening Programs and Media Reports

## ▶ Ask Questions

- ▶ Is the current legislation up-to-date?
  - ▶ Review list of disqualifiers periodically
- ▶ Is the screening process addressing current needs/trends?
  - ▶ Review patterns/trends to see if there are gaps or unintended consequences.

## ▶ Be Proactive

- ▶ Keep data current and on hand
  - ▶ Look for trends
    - Does it validate or expose?



# Screening Programs and Media Reports

## ▶ **Florida**

### ▶ History

- ▶ Varying Requirements
  - Workgroup Reports
- ▶ Standard Procedures
  - Review the incident

### ▶ 2009 Media Expose

- ▶ Loopholes
- ▶ Gathered data
- ▶ Prepared Legislation

### ▶ Legislative Success

- ▶ Major changes in 2010
- ▶ Formation of the Clearinghouse in 2012



# Screening Programs and Media Reports

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## ▶ Collaborate

- ▶ Strength in numbers
  - Team up with other State agencies
  - Engage stakeholders

## ▶ Spread the Word

- ▶ Use the media to promote the positives



# Screening Programs and Media Reports

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## ▶ **West Virginia**

### ▶ Collaboration

- ▶ Reports warrant information to the WV State Police
  - Results - numerous arrests of wanted felons working in facilities

### ▶ Spread the Word

- ▶ Press release regarding the positive outcomes of background screening
  - Article appeared in a national publication



# Screening Programs and Media Reports



- ▶ **The Forum** - New Resource

- ▶ Media Response Kit

- ▶ Customizable

- ▶ Prepares for:

- What is known about the incident based on screening system information
      - What was missed during the review; if anything
      - Identifying loopholes in current processes
      - Identifying current system capabilities and successes
      - Identifying proposed enhancements that are pending or previously rejected
      - Reviews best practices from other States

# Screening Programs and Media Reports

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QUESTIONS?