11.12.13 National Disability Institute

>> We're at the top of the hour, thank you for joining us here today. I'm Miranda Kennedy with the ABLE national resource center. And today we have our spotlight webinar on the Texas ABLE program.

If we can go to the next slide. The ABLE National Resource Center in case you may be new to our webinars and platform, the ABLE National Resource Center is the leading comprehensive source of objective independent information about federal and state related ABLE programs and activities, including guidance on tax advantaged ABLE savings accounts.

Our mission is to educate, promote and support the positive impact ABLE can make on the lives of millions of Americans with disabilities and their families. Our pioneering work in this area and subject matter expertise makes us the foremost authority on topics related to the achieving a better life experience or ABLE act.

ABLE accounts state ABLE programs, ABLE‑related policy developments and comprehensive integration of ABLE and financial capability strategies for people with disabilities into public service delivery systems.

Founded and managed by National Disability Institute since 2015, the ABLE national resource center and the resource center website, ABLE NRC is the go to place for people and their families employers and state federal agencies service providers, tax practitioners, financial planners and attorneys.

The ABLE national resource center is privately owned and managed is not affiliated with the U.S. federal government. And while we provide a wealth of targeted resources best practice guidance to support your use of ABLE accounts our staff does not provide management on Social Security benefits or advice about investing in specific ABLE programs.

I want to provide that as a background, but now we're going to go ahead and I'm handing it over to my colleague Hope Price who will walk through logistics and I'll introduce you to today's presenters and our agenda and we'll dive into our spotlight. Hope, what can folks do to help them with their listening and engagement with the webinar today?

>> Thank you, Miranda. For listening to the webinar the audio for today's meeting can be accessed using computer audio or by calling in by phone.

If you select computer audio, please make sure your speakers are turned on or your headphones are plugged in. If you do not have sound capabilities on your computer, or prefer to listen by phone, please dial 1‑929‑205‑6099, meeting code 83563253874. For captioning, real time captioning is provided during this webinar.

The captions can be found by clicking on the closed captions icon in your Zoom controls at the bottom of the screen. For submitting questions, please use the Q&A box to submit any questions you have during the webinar. Please do not use the chat box. We will try to answer all questions. Please explore the ABLE National Resource Center website for answers to all of your questions and for additional information within our archived webinars, resources and newsletters.

At ABLENRC.org. For technical assistance if you experience any technical difficulties during the webinar, please use the chat box to send a message to the NDI host or e‑mail me at Hprice@ndi.Inc.org. Please note this webinar is being recorded and the materials will be placed on the ABLE National Resource Center website along with all of our other ABLE webinars@ablenrc.org/resources/webinars.

Miranda, back to you.

>> Thank you, Hope. So my name is Miranda Kennedy. I'm the director of the ABLE National Resource Center and I'm happy to provide this opportunity for the spotlight for our presenters today. I'll be the facilitator also behind the scenes you'll be getting some support from my colleague, Marlene Lisski answering any basic ABLE questions you might have in the Q&A not specific to the Texas ABLE but if you had basic ABLE questions along the way she'll be able to help support that.

We also have a Q&A at the end for our presenters where we can dive into those specific questions about the Texas ABLE program.

Speaking of our presenters from the Texas ABLE program, let me introduce you to Linda Fernandez, who is director of the Texas Comptroller's division that provides support to the board chaired by comptroller Greg HAger supports the Texas ABLE program. And works for Texas Match public charity awards scholarships to participants in the tuition payment plan and experience in the financial leadership in Texas and serves as a board member of the juvenile diabetes and American Heart Association and as PTA member as autism campus advisory council appointed the state employee charitable council committee by governor Greg Abbott we have Rob Percival, senior vice president of strategic relationships with Orion advisor solutions the program manager of the Texas ABLE plan. Involved for 18 years and launching over 20 different ABLE plans across the country since 2016. Taken an active role at the national level representing the private sector administrator perspective and working collaboratively with other ABLE stakeholders to enhance the reach and effectiveness of ABLE plans. We also have with us Dr. Jane Bost, who is a mountain hiker, painter, gardener, licensed psychologist former Texas ABLE advisory committee wife sister and mom of an adult child with different abilities. And she's the counseling center director at southwestern university and associate director at the University of Texas mental health counseling center she'll share her experience with the Texas ABLE account. You'll also be.

You'll get to witness the story that Ted Galanos will be sharing via video as a Texas able account honor. So looking forward to share that with you as well. Go to the next slide take a look at our agenda. I know we're actually first going to be just giving you a snippet about the ABLE NRC spotlight series what this is but we'll do a review of the ABLE roadmap to enrollment. And Texas ABLE and some basic elements of ABLE accounts will be provided by the Texas ABLE program who will also then be diving into their program features.

And you'll be hearing throughout the presentation Texas ABLE account holder stories which can help to bring this to life and we have saved some time at the end of our hour and a half here together for questions and answers for our presenters.

So let's go ahead and take a look at the next slide. This will give you insight about the spotlight series we have. We conducted a series of spotlight webinars across the year as opportunity arises.

They're intended for those who have a basic understanding of ABLE but I'll give you the roadmap next that will help you in case you need to catch up and I know the Texas ABLE program will also give you some basics.

But the point really is that it gives the platform to the state ABLE programs that are part of either multistate collaborations or individual state programs like Texas, which is open to in‑state residents in Texas, an opportunity to provide program‑specific details as well as some general guidance and best practices specific to their program.

So each program spotlight will also cover concepts related to investing and saving so that individuals who want to make the most of their ABLE account have a better understanding of these options especially as we understand many of these individuals ABLE eligible or their families this might be some of the first opportunity to move in that direction.

We want to help build a foundation there from which to grow. Let's go ahead and take a look at the next slide, which will give us a roadmap to ABLE.

This is information that you can find on our ABLE National Resource Center website, first roadmap to enrollment which can cover information such as what is ABLE, who is eligible, how can funds be used. How do I manage my account and how do I enroll.

So some of those basics that can set you up for moving towards opening that account. These are just three ‑‑ there's three to four‑minute videos as well as specific guidance on each of those five steps.

The roadmap to independence is for those folks who now I've got an ABLE account, how do I make the most of it, which covers the five steps of studying those financial goals. Building a circle of support who can help you and contribute to your ABLE account, how to make those smart financial decisions.

How to monitor the ABLE account and how to celebrate financial independence. These roadmaps are also available in Spanish. I wanted to point that out for folks who feel like they need to refresh themselves on some of those basics that I know Texas is going to be going through here shortly.

But they're going to move it through it fairly quickly. If you want a deeper dive this is a good resource for you. Next up is going to show you a map of the ABLE programs across the country.

This will be available on our website to help folks understand there's a lot of options we certainly encourage folks to take a look at home state first in case there's additional incentives or resources many programs are open across the country to nonin‑state residents but this resource on our website can help choose the ABLE program that's right for you. We offer a tool that helps compare state ABLE programs 45 state ABLE programs three state comparison tool look at programs side by side.

Check that out. If you click on our website how to join our listserv as well, which you see that link is not on here. But Marlene can include that in the chat as well.

So this is, this is just a resource to help you understand how expansive ABLE is, we've had programs open even very recently.

This is all very new space for the ABLE programs, but it's growing. It's dynamic, and since the inception in 2016, there's been over $550 million invested in able accounts with $100 million used to purchase, to use for qualified disability expenses. It's really a growing opportunity. And very exciting.

So with that I'm actually going to hand the ball over to Linda to share a little more about Texas ABLE basics and then also the Texas program itself so you can understand that even better all the different features and just a little teaser I know they've got an announcement to share about how they're evolving and growing into new things they even have in place or have coming up.

So you're going to be hearing it first we'll be breaking some news, right, Linda?

>> That's correct. Thank you Miranda. I'd like to thank the ABLE National Resource Center and the National Disability Institute for this opportunity to bring you some information about our Texas ABLE program. Joining me today is going to be Rob Percival, who is with our program manager, which is Orion Advisor Solutions, Inc. So let me start off.

Next slide, please. So as Miranda mentioned, we're going to start out with a very high level overview of the federal ABLE act, the things that apply to all ABLE programs. And then we're going to tell you a little bit specific to the Texas ABLE program. And then you're going to hear some account holder stories from individuals that are enrolled in the Texas ABLE program.

Next slide. So before we begin, I need to tell you that today we're only going to provide limited highlights of the Texas ABLE program. Our office cannot provide legal, tax, financial benefit or investment advice or advice regarding penalty avoidance under applicable tax law.

You should contact your attorney, financial advisor or other advisor regarding your specific legal tax financial benefit or investment situation. And you should carefully read the program disclosure statement and participation agreement that's available on our website for detailed information about the program before deciding whether or not to enroll.

Next slide. So let's talk about the federal ABLE act. Next slide, please, ma'am. Steven Beck Jr. achieving a better life experience ABLE act was passed by Congress in 2014. And that act amended the Internal Revenue Code to add section 529A that authorizes states to establish ABLE programs.

The act created a new savings option for individuals with disabilities to allow them to save money in a tax advantaged account to be used for qualified disability expenses and keep their eligibility for public benefit.

Next slide. A little bit about this account these are tax advantaged account. I'll tell you a little bit more in a minute what that means for eligible individuals for disabilities and the federal act was clear that funds in an ABLE account are intended to supplement but not supplant benefits provided through Medicaid, supplemental security income and Social Security disability insurance.

By federal law, the beneficiary owns the account and a beneficiary may have only one able account. So when I say tax advantaged what I mean is any earnings on withdrawals from the account are exempt from federal income tax if they are used to pay for the beneficiaries qualified disability expenses.

Next slide. So to be eligible under the ferret law, an individual must have developed their disability before the age of 26. Now they could be older than 26 and still be eligible for the program it's just that their disability had to have occurred before the age of 26 and they must meet one, only one of the following criteria.

They either need to be eligible to receive SSI or SSDI, or have a condition listed on Social Security Administration's list of compassionate allowances conditions or they can obtain a physician's diagnosis of a medically determinable physical or mental impairment that results in marked and severe limitations which can either be expected to result in death or has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months.

Next slide, please. There are some limits on the contributions. A beneficiary that is not employed cannot have contributions in excess of $15,000 per year. That's tied to the annual gift tax exclusion. So it's subject to change but it's $15,000 this year and will be $15,000 in 2021.

A beneficiary that's employed can have an additional amount in contributions. They can have up to $27,140 per year. $15,000 of that can be from any source. But the remaining $12,140 must come from the beneficiary's wages and to be eligible for this the individual cannot be contributing to any other retirement or pension program in order to contribute to that higher amount.

And if you're collecting Social Security benefits, the account balance up to $100,000 is disregarded when determining eligibility for certain means tested federal benefits, the total resource limit is 102,000. So if you have no other resources outside of the Texas ABLE account, you could have up to $102,000.

But if you do have other resources up to $2,000 outside of the ABLE account, then the limit would be $100,000 before it would temporarily suspend your SSI benefit. Next slide.

Withdrawals may be used to qualified disability expenses related to the individual's disability and are for the benefit of maintaining or improving his or her health independence or quality of life and this includes basic living expenses.

It's not limited to expenses for which there's a medical necessity. Next slide. These are the categories of expenses that were listed in the Internal Revenue Code you'll see a very expansive list funds in an ABLE account can be used for qualified disability expenses related to education and housing and transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology and personal support services, health prevention and wellness, financial management, administrative services legal fees, oversight and monitoring, funeral and burial expenses of the beneficiary.

And other expenses that might be identified from time to time by the Internal Revenue Services. Next slide.

One of the most important things about an ABLE account is the impact on benefits. As I mentioned before ABLE individuals receiving SSI benefits could not have more than $2,000 in resources without losing your eligibility for those much needed benefits. After ABLE individuals can save up to $100,000 in an ABLE account and still retain their eligibility for SSI and other means tested state and federal benefits.

So it's $102,000 combined. So if you don't have any resources outside ABLE as I mentioned earlier, then you could have $102,000 in your able account.

Next slide. Let's talk about some of the features that are unique to our Texas ABLE program. Next slide, please. So the Texas ABLE program was created by the Texas Legislature and it's established and maintained by the Texas prepaid higher education tuition board with assistance from the Texas comptroller's office. We launched our program in May of 2018.

Texas residency is currently required to participate in the Texas ABLE program, our board has the option to make it a nationwide program if they choose to do that in the future but right now individuals have to be a Texas resident to participate in Texas ABLE.

Next slide, please. The Texas Prepaid Higher Education board is a seven member board chaired by the comptroller with six appointed members, two appointed by the governor and four by the lieutenant governor.

I mentioned Orion Advisor Solutions is the program manager. And we also had a Texas ABLE Advisory Committee, a seven‑member committee appointed by the comptroller that helped us implement the program. So, let me tell you a little bit about that group on the next slide. Here's a picture of our Texas ABLE advisory committee along with some of our staff members that work with the program. So the advisory committee was established in statute by the Legislature with the purpose with rules and procedures to provide guidance to suggest changes and make recommendations for administration of the program to provide assistance to the board and comptroller during the creation of the program. The statute gave the comptroller the authority to appoint the members but designated that it must include at least one member from each of the following groups. The disability qualifies the person or family members of a person with a disability who qualifies for the person. ‑‑

For the program, representatives of disability advocacy organizations and representatives of the financial community. This group was absolutely invaluable to us in developing and enrolling out the able program to bring the perspective of what it meant to persons with the disability as to how we structure the program and what we offered through the program.

Next slide, please. For the Texas ABLE program is a program for Texans that was built by Texans. We have online account access and management when you enroll in the program there's a self attestation process. By responding to the eligible criteria that I went through earlier.

We have bilingual customer service team and we have marketing information materials that are in Spanish and in English. We have a contribution tracking monitoring process system to make sure you don't exceed the limitations we spoke about earlier.

Our website was audit to make sure that it was compliant with ADA. Section 508 of the Rehab Act and the Web content accessibility guidelines for enrollment maximum contribution of $500,000 for a beneficiary of the Texas ABLE program for those not concerned about retaining benefits as we mentioned there's a hundred thousand dollar limitation for that. Next slide, please. So.

There's two types of individuals that can open an ABLE account. Eligible individual with a disability can establish and manage their own account as long as they're a Texas resident that's at least 18 years of age.

Or an authorized legal representative of an eligible individual can establish an account. That could be a parent, legal guardian or other fiduciary, a trustee, agent acting under power of attorney or a representative payee.

On the representative payee, I should mention that while the new IRS regs allow for that at the present time it's not appropriate for rep paee to conserve funds in the ABLE account the ABLE account must meet the rules of the social administration rep program.

And the Social Security Administration is compiling guidelines. As far as power of attorney limited power of attorney paperwork on the website. Limited to only having a power of attorney over an ABLE account. So individuals can use that form if they like to set up that limited power of attorney.

One of the things we do through Texas ABLE if an ALR requester establishes an account we do verify that that individual is authorized to establish an account on behalf of that eligible individual.

That they can have only one account in their name we want to be sure that that person is indeed authorized to establish that account.

Next slide, please. So you can enroll online, ABLE is open for enrollment year‑round, 24 hours a day. You enroll at Texas able.org. It's a very simple intuitive platform. There's no enrollment fee to enroll in Texas ABLE. There's a $50 minimum deposit to establish an account and subsequent contributions have to meet a $25 minimum.

Enrollment takes usually about 20 minutes. One of the things you'll do during enrollment is select your investment options, how you want the funds invested that you deposit to the program and we're going to tell you more about that in a moment.

Next slide, please. Very easy to use an ABLE account. You can make contributions through personal or cashier's check. You can set up payroll deduction. You can do an electronic funds transfer automatic contribution plan. You can roll over funds from a 529 college savings account that's something relatively new that Congress passed a couple of years ago. Of course you have to be mindful of the $15,000 a year contribution limit.

You can also roll over funds from another able program. You can roll over your account to Texas ABLE. We have a nice online E‑gifting tool I'm going to talk about in a little bit. And also you can make contributions from a special needs trust to a Texas ABLE account.

Withdrawals are done online to pay for qualified disability expenses to make withdrawals by check or by ACH, by transferring funds to your bank electronically, and you can also transfer funds to your prepaid debit card.

Next slide. Once you establish an account, you can set up online can assess to view all your account details from online, account balance, transaction history and investment performance activity.

You request withdrawals online. You can change your investment options online. You can set up recurring contributions. If you need to send documents to the program you can upload those documents electronically.

Next slide. For online E‑gifting tool allows you to create an E gift event that you do from your online account to be sent to family or friends via e‑mail and it contains a link in a personalized message with instructions on how they can contribute directly to the account. It's a secure and Ed's way for others to contribute for things like birthdays, holidays or other milestones in your life. Or just because they like to help. Next slide, please.

So, I mentioned you'll have to select your investment options when you set up the account. We've got four investment options including an FDIC insured bank savings option.

You would choose one or a combination of the four so you could allocate 100 percent to one option. You could divide your deposit between all options whatever you choose to do. And as allowed by the federal ABLE act and the fees will be based upon the investment option that you select. All that information is available online in our program disclosure statement. There's extensive information there about the different investment options that are available.

The risk associated with those and the fees. Next slide please. At this time I'll turn it over to Rob Percival to talk to you about those investment options.

Again I'm Rob Percival with Orion solutions and we work with the team over at ABLE to help administer the program. We realize that saving and investing are concepts that aren't always second nature to ABLE account holders, the investment lineup for the Texas ABLE plan was thoughtfully designed with this in mind to be as straightforward as possible while offering choices for all types of investing time horizons and risk tolerances.

As Linda mentioned, there are four options to choose from. Including an FDIC insured bank savings option. And you can select any combination of the four options. Depending on your savings goals, it's not uncommon for ABLE account holders to allocate a portion of their savings to the bank savings option to cover their shorter term qualified disability expenses things like rent, for example.

Or other day‑to‑day expenses. While also allocating a portion to one of the three managed allocation portfolios for any longer term savings goals that they may have think of a home or accessible vehicle purchase or other assistive technology.

And as Linda noted on the previous slide, if your savings goals evolve over time, there is the ability to move funds among the investment options up to twice per calendar year. So keep that in mind.

More detailed information about the options for investing in the associated fees are available in the program disclosure statement.

Now, while this slide has a lot going on, it's really just meant to show the breakdown of underlying investment products that comprise each option. Managed allocation options invest in a combination of equity and fixed income mutual funds from well respected investment firms and the bank savings account option made up entirely FDIC insured bank savings account. Specifically for the managed account options.

Options are vanguard total stock market index fund and vanguard international stock market inindex fund. In the fixed income are Pi in." Co total refund fund and Eden advanced fund. The pie charts you see on the slide for the managed allocation options show the portion of each of those options that is invested in those specific mutual funds I just mentioned that are listed below the charts.

Starting on the left side the aggressive option is made up of mostly equity based mutual funds, approximately 80%. Which generally are expected to provide the potential for higher returns over longer time horizon.

Conversely on the other end of the managed allocation options, the moderately conservative option includes a higher percentage of fixed income funds approximately 75%, that will generally provide less return over time but that will also carry less risk.

And in the middle is the moderate option which consists of a more balanced combination of equity and fixed income funds. Let's take a look at the next slide, please.

As you can see, this table provides some of the most recent performance option of the options these figures are available on the planned website, updated each day you also have the option to switch between seeing the latest month end or quarter end returns data, depending on how you want to take a look at that.

On the allocation options largely depends on the performance of the stock markets and the bond markets as you can imagine while the bank option is tied to short‑term interest rates.

As you may be aware are at historical lows at the moment essentially close to zero currently. And this is important to keep in mind since while the bank savings option is intended for capital preservation, it is possible depending on how much is contributed to that option, that you won't see any interest accrued but will still have planned expenses charged against your account.

That's something to factor in there as you look at what you want to invest in. While the allocation options involve some risks certainly they're also designed for the potential for gains that could offset the plans expenses. At this time I'll turn it back to Linda talk about some of the details about the Texas able program.

>> Thank you, Rob. Next slide, please. There are also account fees associated with an able account. There's a monthly account maintenance fee of $4. If you opt for delivery of program documents by electronic delivery, there is no cost.

If you prefer paper delivery there's a $10 annual fee for that. There's a $5 fee for each withdrawal by check.

And for HACH withdrawals, the first two each month are free. They're included in your $4 charge, but everything after those first two will cost a dollar per withdrawal.

As I mention there's no fee for enrollment. There's no fees for rollovers for another able program or from a 529 college savings account or for things like change of beneficiary or change of authorized legal representative. Next slide, please. Exciting announcement we're so pleased to announce that our prepaid debit card. This will be simple and fast way for Texas ABLE account owners to access their funds to pay for qualified disability expenses.

While they're out shopping or eating or making purchases online. It is a reloadable prepaid debit card funded by withdrawals from your Texas able account. It can be used online or in stores anywhere that accepts Visa debit card. You can view your balance and transaction history via U.S. Bank mobile act or online.

You can sign up to receive texts or e‑mails when you've got a new amount loaded to your account that's available or if you're getting low on the balance. There's no enrollment fee to participate. They're going through the final programming and testing phase of implementing the program T.

We expect to do a soft launch here in the next week or two.

And it will be available at the time of enrollment on our website or for individuals that have an existing able account. They'll be able to request an able debit card also. So we're really excited about this. We know it's convenience to our ABLE account holders to have a debit card associated to their account.

Next slide, please. Want to ask whether someone should have an ABLE account or special needs trust. The two work very nicely together. A special needs trust can contribute to a beneficiary's account. Funds contributed by a special need trust to an ABLE account do not affect the beneficiary's eligibility for SSI, even when those funds are used to pay for food and shelter.

So what's nice about having those funds from a special needs trust deposited into an ABLE account it allows the ABLE beneficiary or the ALR to manage his or her own fund without going through the special needs trustee when they need to make a payment.

And any earnings in an ABLE account are exempt from federal tax if they are used to pay for the beneficiary's qualified disability expenses. If you have a smaller amount of funds that you would like to set up, ABLE can often be a less costly alternative than setting up a special needs trust.

Next slide. At this time we would like to play a video by Ted Galanos, who is a very special Texas ABLE account owner. Ted is a 47‑year‑old gentleman from Houston, Texas. We recently featured him in one of our comptroller public facings to tell Ted's story.

He also placed second in the 2019 ABLE to save video contest from the ABLE National Resource Center. So we'll give you a chance now to hear Ted's video. Hope or Anna, can you load the video for us? Please.

>> Hope, can we check in see what the status of the video starting is.

>> It will be worth the wait, everyone.

>> For sure.

>> This is a video that one of the winners ABLE to save winners out of Texas. We're familiar with Ted. He has a great story.

>> He has a great story. Very unique individual.

>> Hello, everyone. My name is Ted Galanos. I live in Houston, Texas. My able account is through the Texas ABLE program. I live in a nursing home. And I have several significant disabilities. Some of which are blindness, wheelchair mobility and amputations to all of my fingers.

The ABLE account allows for my family and friends to contribute to me financially without putting my benefits at risk. I am able to save to go on special outings outside of the nursing home such as adaptive water‑skiing, hunting and fishing. I also hope to save enough to get an accessible apartment or house and have provider care services for my daily living needs.

>> As we mentioned Ted is quite an individual and we appreciate him working with the Texas ABLE program. Next slide, please. Now we want to introduce you to Dr. Jane Bost. She's a certified and licensed psychologist who served as the associate director of the University of Texas counseling and mental health center for over 15 years before retiring in 2015 we laughingly use the word retired when we refer to Jane.

Because as Miranda mentioned earlier she's very, very active. She's an advocate for causes she believes in. She's a very talented painter and avid hiker and the mother of Morgan, a beneficiary of a Texas ABLE account. Jane served as a member and presiding officer of the Texas ABLE advisory commission that we talked about earlier.

And we simply could not have rolled out the program without Jane. So at this time I'll turn it over to Jane to hear her story. Thank you.

>> Thank you, Linda. Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to share our ABLE story on this national webinar. I will share that story in three parts. So here we go with part one.

After a normal pregnancy, our daughter, Morgan, was born July 29th, 1990, without complication at saint David's hospital Austin, Texas. My husband, David, and our three‑year‑old son, Christopher, and myself were on top of the world.

However, within the hour the medical staff informed us that they were observing seizure movements and needed to do a CAT scan.

Bottom line for unknown reasons sometime prior to birth, Morgan had experienced a significant stroke which had destroyed areas in her brain.

We spiraled from the mountaintop to the deepest pit of despair. The specific prognosis was unknown but definitely not good.

Our pediatric neurologist Dr. Gazi met with us the next day and for the first time we felt some flutter of hope.

He told us that while he would not give false hope, that much recovery of the function could happen due to plasticity of the brain. We would need to get Morgan recommended therapies, and of course, a lot of love.

Fast forward. A few years ago, when Dr. Gazi had a follow‑up CAT scan and MRI on Morgan he told us:  No neurologist in the world would ever believe that our Morgan was the same person who had that initial CAT scan.

She had surpassed every prediction and then some. At the same time, while being the most joyful person I've ever known, along with a ton of other magical positive attributes, Morgan has significant learning disabilities. No fine motor use of her right hand. And a very limited ability to communicate verbally due to severe oral motor coordination issues.

When she was younger, she communicated with an adaptive sign language due to her right hand limitations. It was around this time elementary school that an occupational therapist said to me:  Jane, Morgan will be an excellent communicator.

To say the least, I was highly dubious. Later, during high school, Morgan was using the best augmented communication device on the market to communicate, but the device was slow, heavy and required Morgan to memorize complicated patterns. So, Morgan was ‑‑ it was also communicating at that point by physically writing on paper with her left hand. Her vocabulary was small but growing.

Then one day at an ARD meeting at school, Morgan's school aide relayed a suggestion from her teenage daughter that would change Morgan's life forever.

How about Morgan using a cell phone to communicate? All the teachers, administrators, specialists, therapists and we parents said a collective duh, why didn't we think of that?

Following up, we researched cell phones that would work with Morgan's needs, bought one, and she quickly picked up on how to use texting with voice output functions to communicate.

Morgan badly wanted to communicate. And the cell phone texting gave her the motivation to learn lots more words to do so. So, today Morgan not only uses her cell phone but in recent years she also uses an iPad, especially as a way to face time with one or more friends.

She often uses both her cell phone to speak her words or show pictures as her buddies uses face time on that iPad.

This technology has opened so many important doors for our daughter. As we've all rediscovered during this COVID time social connections is vital to all of us humans and for Morgan perhaps even more so since she cannot verbally communicate.

Which brings me to part two of the story. Many of you know that in order to retain eligibility for federal or state entitlement benefits like Social Security disability, you cannot have more than $2,000 at a time in financial assets under that person's name.

You are penalized severely if you go over that amount at any time. Morgan proudly started working at a part‑time clerical job six hours a week in her early 20s. This was a tremendous boost to her sense of efficacy and independence.

But ironically her job earnings and her social security benefits also made staying within that two thousand dollar limit even more challenging.

In addition, David and I were trying to be conservative in spending money from the account so that there could be a buffer there in the event of medical expenses or other larger necessary expenses.

As a result, a Social Security audit revealed that several times we had gone over that two thousand dollar limit, but we were penalized the full amount of her Social Security check for each of those times, resulting in about a $3,000 payback to Social Security.

It was around this time that a friend of mine, Chris Maizy, who was working at the coalition for Texans with disabilities told me about the federal ABLE act and that a Texas ABLE program was being formed through the state of Texas comptroller's office.

He said that ABLE's purpose was to provide a financial savings option for people with disabilities that would not count towards the $2,000 limit.

That was so exciting to hear. He said the comptroller's office was looking for qualified individuals to serve on an ABLE advisory committee to help develop implement such a program in Texas.

With my permission he nominated me and luckily I was chosen to serve on the Texas ABLE advisory committee two years as a member and as presiding officer working with Linda Fernandez and her incredible team.

Now and now for part three which ties together all the pieces of this story. Because of able, we could set up a savings account for Morgan's needs without the stress of staying within that tight $2,000 limit.

So when needed, we transferred money from Morgan's part‑time job bank, checking account into her ABLE account. So fantastic. Now, remember, in part one, when I described the importance of technology for Morgan, well, we just completed buying a brand new iPad to replace her eight‑year‑old iPad that was so outdated that it didn't even do Facetime anymore.

Morgan is ecstatic. She's already arranged for several group Facetimes on her iPad with friends and is also using the iPad for learning apps that we could not access with her old iPad.

And the best part is that Morgan knows she paid for it. Remember when I told you about the occupational therapist forecasting that Morgan would be a great communicator?

Clearly technology has played a key role in making the therapist vision come true. And ABLE has allowed Morgan the ability and dignity to buy that technology for herself without penalty.

In summary, our entire family is grateful for the Texas ABLE program not only for what opportunities it opens for us, but for opening the door for all Texans to achieve a better life experience.

>> Thank you, Jane, for sharing your wonderful story with us.

>> You're welcome.

>> Next slide, please. So to connect with the Texas ABLE program, you can reach out to our customer service team by calling 844‑489‑2253. Monday through Friday 8.00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. central standard time or e‑mail us at customerservice@Texas ABLE.org. Our website is available 24/7 and provides detailed information about the program.

We also have outreach specialists that are available to make presentations, including webinars during the COVID era. For people that are interested in learning more about the ABLE program, if you have a group or an organization that would like for us to make a presentation, please contact us at 512‑475‑5331. Or send an e‑mail to Texasable@cpa.Texas.gov. Next slide, please. So.

So at this time we'll turn it back over to Miranda. If you have additional questions after today's webinar that you wish that you had asked us during the chat session, please feel free to reach out to us at those e‑mail addresses afterwards and we'll be more than happy to provide an answer.

Thank you so much. Thank you so much, Linda and Rob and Jane, this was a great presentation. I do have to say I'm laughing a little bit. Folks, everyone who is listening, we actually prepped a couple of questions in case it was quiet during the chat in Q&A.

But it was not quiet. So glad we have the extra time we have about 20 minutes or more here that we can answer some of these questions. I know that Marlene has been answering a lot of them on the side in the chat and the Q&A. Thank you for that, Marlene. Check there to see if your question was answered.

I have some that are identified I'm going to start asking our presenters. If your question isn't answered when we're going through this, guess what, we're here. And this isn't your only chance to get those questions answered.

You can definitely reach out to the Texas ABLE program. You can reach out to us. Also we'll be capturing in the post training survey any questions you have there that you want to mention.

And even the chat in Q&A we'll you will all be doing some follow‑up within the next week hope to get you your answers.

But having said all of that that was a lot of information and especially if folks are new, some of these questions we might have covered a bit but people might benefit from a little more clarity.

I'm going to start off asking they're asking can you please clarify the Texas account limit ABLE National Resource Center has it down as 500,000 that was on the slide. But eagle eyes folks it states 370,000. Can you just take a second clarify that?

>> Absolutely. Good question. Our board recently made that change to increase it from 370,000 to 500,000.

So a supplement will be posted to our program disclosure statement. There were some changes in federal law that came along. And so we're incorporating those as well.

So it is $500,000 is the maximum contribution limit for Texas ABLE account.

>> I have to admit Linda when I saw that I thought oh no we got it wrong on our site. We ask our state ABLE programs to provide updates on a regular basis. And so glad to know.

You should always look at the state ABLE program disclosure documents for the most up to date. But as you can see things evolve regularly.

How great that that's increased by $130,000 limit. That's excellent.

Okay. So I wonder if this might even be for I don't know you Linda or Rob. People are asking do you need any beta testers for the debit card rollout?

>> Well, we appreciate the offer. But we have someone to help us with the soft launch already set up. So thank you very much, though, for asking.

>> All right. There were a few of those. But people are excited want to help you make that happen. They're asking is the debit card a pure link card and how about prepaid card fees.

>> It is a U.S. Bank focus card. And there will be more information soon on our website about this. All that's in development and will be released soon. And we will post our fee schedule as well at that time.

There's no enrollment fee. There's no fee to using your card. The vendor is the one that is going to be paying the fees on the transactions, but there are some fees, for instance, if you lose your card and want a replacement card, et cetera.

So we definitely would want you to look at that fee schedule before enrolling in the card and it will be available soon.

>> Great. A lot of these questions just for folks listening, they're specific to the program. So anything that's just kind of basic general for ABLE, keep in mind Marlene will be answering those in the side. And we also have other resources.

But continuing to drill down into the Texas program one of the things they're asking does Texas have Medicaid recapture on ABLE accounts. Can you speak to that?

>> Yes, our Texas Medicaid program has determined that they will do what we're calling claw back after all the eligible expenses have been paid for beneficiary including funeral and burial expenses and that payback period only applies, of course, during the period of time they had an ABLE account open for any expenses that were paid by that Medicaid program.

I noticed someone was asking about if they opened an ABLE account in another state but they're a Texas resident, would the Texas Medicaid still apply to them as far as the clawback.

And the answer is yes. So, opening an account in another state, even if that state has a waiver, their waiver would only apply to their state residence and would not extend to residence of other states.

>> I think that's an important distinction. And the that should answer we saw a number of questions coming in on that. So we're hoping that helped clarify that. Please feel free to in the chat or Q&A let us know if that answers your questions on that.

It answered my question, but I live in this space, Linda, with you.

>> So another question, and hey, maybe we pull Rob in and see if he can answer this one. Rob, are you there?

>> I am here.

>> Going to throw one to you maybe the next two would be good ones for can we invest in just a vanguard fund institutional plus shares and BNPS these folks are savvy, asking a real specific question on how they can invest in their ABLE account there.

I like that question. Unfortunately, the answer to it is no. The only options that are available are the actual managed allocation portfolios that are comprised of underlying mutual funds such as that vanguard fund that was referenced or of course the bank savings option. But the investments within the ABLE plan, because these are municipal securities, the portfolios are what kind of makes them a municipal security.

And they are invested in multiple underlying mutual funds. So unfortunately you wouldn't be able to invest directly in that fund but certainly if you're someone who is savvy with those types of underlying funds, please read through the specifics in the investment section of the disclosure document and hopefully some good option that would give you exposure to that particular fund.

>> Thanks, Rob. This might be good for you too. Currently we've been sending a check to an out‑of‑state ABLE account. Is it possible to send funds via ACH bank‑to‑bank?

>> Well, yes if the question is that someone is currently a Texas resident and they're invested in another state's plan, certainly they have an option to open a Texas plan. There's a limitation that Linda referred in the discussion you can only have one ABLE account open at any given time with the one exception to that being if you do want to establish an account in a new state you're allowed to roll those funds over from the existing state's ABLE plan into the new state plan.

That would certainly be an option in this case if you are a Texas resident and you're considering investing in the Texas plan, and then in terms of the contribution types available I'm not sure if I'm interpreting the question correctly, but there certainly is an option to do a bank, have your bank kind of push those funds to the plan via ACH or you could set up a recurring investment plan.

Where you provide your banking info it's pulled into the plan from your banking your checking account.

>> And Rob ‑‑

>> And that answer‑

>> Go ahead, Linda.

>> I might add to that if you were considering a rollover from another plan, the first step would be to open an ABLE account and then you would transfer those funds from the other ABLE account to the Texas ABLE account.

>> And there's information on how to do that in your disclosure documents?

>> Yes, ma'am.

>> That's an important resource for folks. And most of them, yours probably as well, have table of contents so you can just go straight to that part around how to do those rollovers.

>> Yes. Okay. Great. And you answered one of the other questions I had about setting up recurring withdrawal with Texas. One thing that sparked for me about that other answer about those rollovers Rob and Linda, would be if you're rolling over from another account, say you're above that $15,000 annual limit, if it was 20,000, you were rolling over from another state, could you roll the whole 20,000 over?

How does that count against your annual limit?

>> Yeah. You are able to do that and Linda keep me honest here in terms of any of the plan specific rules. But because of that requirement, right, that you can only have one able account open at any time, if you are doing an ABLE account to ABLE account rollover, the current limit of 15,000 per year is waived in that scenario because you need to be only have that one account if you have another account in another ABLE account over the years you've contributed to a good amount to it you would be able to roll over the entire amount you'd have to roll over in fact the entire amount whether it's over 15K or not. I think the distinction there might also be underlying that question and Linda mentioned it earlier on in the deck as well, is if you're looking to do rollovers.

From a college savings plan, you have to be mindful not going over that 15,000 limit in combination with any other contributions you made to the ABLE account within that calendar year.

>> Rob, just to clarify, you're absolutely right. But to clarify, the amount you're rolling over, we would still look at if you had made contributions to that plan in the current year, we would still consider that when looking at your $15,000 limit for this year.

Now, if you had contributed $45,000 to that account in past years, that would not count toward your current annual contribution limit.

>> Great clarification, yep.

>> I think we have a very savvy group of question askers don't you think?

>> Absolutely.

>> I'm reaching out to Marlene to see if she has others to throw our way, I want to mention because folks are sharing the recording the presentation itself.

We have put Hope who you heard from at the beginning gave the link for where the recording the archive of this information will be posted on the ABLE NRC website. We're also going to share that recording link with the Texas ABLE program and you guys are welcome to post it on your site or link to ours and share it widely. Along with the resources, the accessible PDF of today's presentation and the live links.

But we do want to ‑‑ let's go ahead and just bring up on the screen the contact information for our Texas ABLE presenters in case folks want to follow up on that, because so much of this is going to be on the Texas ABLE program site. You can also find of course any information on ABLE accounts more broadly on the ABLE NRC.org. But Hope if you would transfer the slide deck we have up on the screen for folks to see the contact information for Texas ABLE.

There you go. All right. So that's the important information that you'll be getting and certainly we want you to be able to have the takeaway as well. Let's see if there's any other ‑‑ oh, here's one that came in. Can you split the account between investment portion and working portion you use for monthly expenses?

>> I'm not sure I'm understanding that question. When you make a withdrawal, it's going to look at the contributions that you're using in any earnings on those contributions. The contributions are post tax. So you already paid taxes on those. So you don't have to worry about that. And any earnings on the contributions that you're withdrawing.

Those would be tax advantaged, tax free, if you use them for qualified disability expenses. Did I answer that correctly?

>> Yes. I'm actually interpreting this and I'll give an example from one of the ABLE ambassadors that we have. That we've worked with.

Who hadn't been very savvy about investment before. Wasn't in the position to do so. Had over a million dollars in bills around their kid that they were trying to navigate.

Hadn't been aible to invest before. But with ABLE was able to do so but was using the FDIC insured component of their ABLE program. 70% of their contributions went into that portion to it to just have it in their FDIC insured part of their account whereas the other 30% they were using in kind of a more conservative or mid level investment just to dabble their toes and see what was the return on the investment.

And maybe start learning about investments to try to ‑‑ in a sense ramped it up realizing oh our money can make money for us if we're investing it. Potentially.

There's also the potential for loss, which that money is not safe but that's how you could grow your money. So, maybe I'll toss that to Roz to talk about can you apportion a certain amount to go into one part of your ABLE account versus another into investments and you differentiate that?

>> Yes. Absolutely. So you're able to utilize any combination of the four investment options that are offered, whether it's at the time that you make a contribution, you can indicate which option, or options and what percentage you'd like that contribution to go into, as well always you can have kind of an allocation on file, so to speak, where if you don't indicate where a particular contribution should go, there's a default that could be 100% to the bank savings.

Or it could be 50% to bank savings and 50% to moderate or 25% to all four, if you think that that makes sense. It's really up to the investor to determine that allocation.

But you can have funds in all four of those options at any given time if that's the way you want the track for your own purposes, your shorter term funds or the funds that you had through your earnings versus funds from other savings.

If that hopefully answers the question a bit more clearly.

>> All right. And so folks don't understand as well how flexible this can be. If you decide moving forward with your investments you want to shift how you are doing that, you can do that from this day forward but retroactively you might not be able to shift. Can you speak to that a little bit?

I think if people are feeling like I want to make a change in how maybe I'm making a regular monthly contribution say but that regular monthly contribution I want to shift how I'm investing or how much I have going into an vaibl to me for those daily needs I might say be using my prepaid card for, right.

That there's flexibility in that so people know they're not locked in they can move and change if they learn new information or if their situation changes, am I right about that?

>> Yes, absolutely. It's a very good point, Miranda, and a very important distinction that you do have the ability in a given calendar year to move your actual funds that have already been invested in the plan up to twice per calendar year.

You can move those from one option to another. You can move half it into another option. You have that flexibility twice per year to make changes of actual existing funds in your account moving that around the available options.

As far as money you're going to contribute in the future you always have the option to change what's considered to be kind of your allocation on file. So that if you send in future contributions and you don't tell us specifically where to allocate those, we'll at least have an allocation on file that we'll know how to allocate those funds.

And then certainly if you want to have a certain contribution you're going to make, let's say you've got a tax return you want to invest that more conservatively, you can always indicate with us on that contribution where you want that contribution to be allocated. And again that could be split between funds. That could go just into one of the options, there's a lot of flexibility there.

And to your point, Miranda, if you have an ongoing, say, a bank automatically investment plan that's drafting from your checking account, say $100 a month, and it's going into the moderate portfolio, for example, and you want to change that because you're now looking to save more of a long‑term goal and they're getting a little more upside potential with your investments and you wanted to change that to the more aggressive option.

You can certainly do that at any time for those future contributions.

>> Right. Even the flipside. We're living through a pandemic. Things are challenging right now. So the people find hey we're seeing many people are finding more money to put into these accounts. And since they are protected savings mechanisms and people can continue to get their means tested benefits or if you're not receiving those means tested benefits but you have expenses because it is expensive to live with a disability.

That there's some flexibility there they could even say I've been investing now might be a great time to get in do investing or maybe I need those funds that are getting drafted to go into my FDIC insured side if I have access to that.

So you can be pretty flexible. You want to have a long‑term vision and set those goals, but there's also some flexibility and I think you've been realizing the moment we're living in and people are in different places with that and the flexibility of this is important.

>> Okay. Absolutely. You know, you're getting lots of questions here, Rob. I'm just going to keep throwing them your way because we have another ten minutes here during the question session. Are you ready?

>> Let's go.

>> Okay. These are good. So they are asking and this is a little bit of follow‑up from what we had before. Eventually will we be able to choose individual stocks and is Orion the only investment company we can invest with with Texas ABLE.

>> Orion is the program manager and we support Texas and Linda and the folks and the comptroller's office as program manager handling administrative aspects and the enrollment when you log into the website and hosting the website and all those tasks.

So, we are the sole program manager for the Texas able plan. But back to the question on the investment piece, I don't envision that that would really ever be an option.

And I tie it back to the answer I gave previously which I think is an important piece that these accounts are municipal security. Similar to 529 college savings plans.

These are also under section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code and they're meant to be municipal securities that are issued by states.

So each state and I think as Miranda mentioned in the intro, 40 plus states now almost all the states each have their own form of an ABLE program.

In order for these to be municipal securities, they do need to have certain aspects with the investments. What you'll typically see is options that are a blend of underlying mutual funds similar to what we have with the Texas plan where there is a combination of fixed income, mutual funds as well as equity mutual funds in different combinations to try to satisfy a range of the best time horizons and risk tolerances.

But there does need to be kind of a portfolio of those funds in order for it to be considered a municipal security. So unfortunately it's not a situation where we're able to just directly sell a particular mutual fund as part of the ABLE.

>> And our board established those portfolios and first they selected the underlying investments that Rob talked about, the vanguard funds and all that. And then the board determined how they would be allocated back into those different portfolios.

So right now people can just select from those individual portfolios that range from risk tolerance. It's something that you need to look in the program disclosure statement to understand better the risk of those different portfolios.

>> And especially for folks who this is their first foray into investing having the different groupings and am I saving for short term, long term, what are my goals and what's the best grouping for me. That's really for those of us who are not you Rob. And you might want to benefit from the benefits of the growth the tax free growth of an able account earlier on got some questions Marlene presentation answered it as well what's the benefit of saving an able account tax free growth of the earnings on the funds in the ABLE account the fact that you can save above a $2,000 limit for means tested benefits there's significant benefits for an ABLE program.

Jane, are you with us, I want to shoot a question your way a statement from someone, are you still there.

>> I'm still here.

>> This is a statement from someone. But I really want to hear what you would say to this person. Okay. Because I think you spoke beautifully about your personal experience and your daughter's experience.

So this is someone who came in and all ‑‑ it's two sentences no question but she said I have opened an ABLE account for my 32‑year‑old daughter. I have not added money into it yet. Period.

Do you have anything to share or say? To this individual who shared that with us?

>> Well, I think everyone's situation is different, but I think that I would encourage her, if she's able to, to do that, is look for ways to, kind of look at her whole financial picture in regards to her daughter and see if there are ways to transfer or put money into that able account.

There's all kinds of advantages to doing it as I was talking about in terms of just managing that $2,000 limit and also putting aside some money for emergencies. It's kind of like wonderful to be able to not have to just just like walk a tightrope all the time in terms of anticipating future expenses.

So I would say that if there's any way financially that she's able to do this. I hope this webinar was able to give her some encouragement, both by what I said and what other people are saying and all the investment possibilities that Rob was talking about.

To kind of just give her a little encouraging push. Again, if that's something that she can do, there's just so many advantages to doing it. And it's not taxable. So that's ‑‑ there's just so many good things about it.

I'm hoping that that statement will be more like I haven't done it but I'm thinking about it now.

>> I think people might want to give you 20 bucks for your birthday but they feel they can't because they don't want to mess with your limit if you are receiving those means tested limits. What we've seen even with circles of support and Rob and Linda is there an opportunity for folks circle of support to be able to contribute into an ABLE account.

You want to monitor it because there might be other regular contributions you're making depending on your situation, but it could be.

If someone has a goal they're saving for, kind of like go fund me, but go fund me can really trip up people with disabilities in terms of oh no, I have two much. I've got too much money and benefits and if people are using a go fund me strategy, I want to support someone they're saving up for, I don't know, assistive technology they might need to have covered.

Or whatever resources or goals they might have, oh I could pitch in some money for that, and I've got this link to their able account. Do you guys have that kind of strategy Rob and Linda I've seen it used widely and start adding up.

>> We don't. I guess our E gifting feature is probably the best way to do something like that. Where someone could send out something to notify friends and family they're saving out for something and they can contribute that way.

The program does have a feature where it monitors to make sure that people don't exceed those annual contributions limits but it's not going to monitor for SSI eligibility, for instance, but we do look at the annual contribution limit and return contributions to the sender whenever we can if it would cause someone to exceed their annual contribution limit.

But I think what you're talking about Colin and Miranda, our E gift feature with work well for that.

>> There are strategies for that. Great. Thank you. These are some great questions and thanks Jane for adding your perspective, I would say other family members of ABLE account members and ABLE account members themselves they generally give the feedback all of them that I've worked with spoken with directly has said:  I wish this had been around earlier.

I wish I had opened it up figured it out as I go instead of feeling like I need to know everything about it because you can waste the opportunity of being able to build those assets, those resources, those funds and then have them when you need them like the moment we're in right now.

>> Miranda, the only thing I would add to that is really reinforcing for folks out there who may be interested and are thinking, this seems interesting, maybe it's not good enough to be true, the investment minimum requirements are fairly low.

Of course everyone has their individual situation, but to get invested in one of these plans with Texas, it just takes $50 to get started. And then for the subsequent contributions as Linda pointed out in one of her slides is $25. So hopefully that helps people get the courage to start somewhere and even if it's starting small, it's something that can be built on.

And just take that first step.

>> Can I also mention that I just want to sort of testify to the fact that it was so easy to open this up and it's so easy to put, various ways like Rob's slides or Linda's slides already showed it's so easy to put the money in to withdraw it.

It's not complicated and also you can always always call and the person at ABLE, the phone number is connected with a customer service and all, they're so great about walking you through any questions that you have about the logistics or otherwise. I want to put a plug‑in for the customer service folks at Texas ABLE.

>> Thank you, Jane. I think that's important. It's why we need people like yourself who are family members or account owners that we're hearing from. There's all these different angles.

And I know we've got about five minutes left. And there's a couple of other great questions in here. If we haven't answered them we'll be looking over this. And reaching out following up with folks to make sure you get your questions answered.

There's the information for customer service at Texasable.org. Call the number as well. For outreach opportunities or presentations or webinars.

The phone number is right there, 512‑475‑5331 or send that e‑mail to Texasable at CPA.Texas.gov.

As we're wrapping up here I want to thank the three of you for joining us on the platform and giving us an overview and diving deep with some of these questions.

And to our audience, what great questions. You know and the program continues to evolve. We actually are just now getting the legislation passed. We're coming occupy the sixth anniversary of the ABLE act next month. New programs still opening.

It is really growing. It's new. You may have heard of it before. But hopefully you have. We need to be here to provide best practices, guidance, tools, strategies. If we go to the next slide, you'll see about how to learn more with our resources. This will just have some links. We have great resources on our ABLE NRC website. And we partner with the Texas ABLE program.

You can check out these resources. We talked about our roadmaps. Talked about our comparison tools for the programs.

We also have case summaries, federal guidance, information on ABLE accounts and tax time savings as well as ABLE toolkits from employers and service providers.

With easy‑to‑use materials for those groups to help support employees who have a disability or family member who has disability or for service providers who how do I easily share information about ABLE accounts that can help folks and not have to become a subject matter expert on this topic, which can feel a little daunting.

So you get more on board with it. We even have, you know, our ABLE account special needs and pooled trust comparison chart which we developed with the special needs aligns. We're not trying to sell you anything here at the ABLE National Resource Center. We're trying to make sure you have access to information and make informed choices and also giving platforms to the ABLE programs like Texas.

You can see how they're making changes and evolving as they go as well. There's also some resources Marlene has been sharing in the chat. I'd encourage folks to check out those resources and in fact Marlene would you please make a point of providing the link to our ambassador stories, because we do have 26 different ambassador stories, that just embody similar to what Dr. Bost shared or Jane shared and Ted shared.

Stories of family members that can help resonate and showcase what a best practice strategies might look like in story form the bullet points on the slide, it can become a lot. And we recognize that.

We want to hand you guys toss you some underhanded soft balls that you can catch and you don't feel like you're taking a drink of water out of a firehose, which is a phrase I learned down in Texas.

We don't want to do that. We have these resources for you. We hope you'll avail yourself of them. Call and check out the Texas ABLE program as well and then on the next slide, as you're getting up and running with this please help us spread the word. We need to share information with others who can benefit from this. This really is a tool that can help people become more financially self‑sufficient, achieve some of those goals, life goals that we all have. Those are now within reach. So.

So there's links how to sign up for the newsletter if you haven't done so far. Check out webinars, presentations we break down things like qualified disability expenses, what are those, pretty broad but you can find some information, good resources, check out those stories. And then on our final slide.

I just want to thank in addition to our presenters today our sponsors for the ABLE National Resource Center and we really appreciate all of you joining us today. Thank you so much hope you have a great rest of your day.

And hope you'll be joining us on future webinars and presentations. Thanks, everyone.

>> Thank you.

>> Thank you. Bye bye.