



Written by [C. Mitchell Shaw](#) on December 22, 2020

Published in the January 18, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 02

States' Dangerous Text Lines

Utilizing a program that makes high-school sex ed look mild by comparison, states all over the country are funding and promoting sex textlines for teens and preteens to ask anonymous adults intimate questions about sex, relationships, contraception, sexually transmitted infections, “gender identity,” and more. These text lines are set up and maintained by the American Sexual Health Association (ASHA).



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Flying Under the Radar

And considering the organization does business with states — business paid for by taxpayer dollars — ASHA is super secretive about which states it has as clients. The New American was able to verify that the BrdsNBz sex textline for teens (or something similar) is available in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Maryland, Florida, Texas, Indiana, New Mexico, and Virginia. California has its own homegrown version of the program — subtly named “Hookup.” BrdsNBz began in North Carolina as ShiftNC before being taken over by ASHA. BrdsNBz may be available in other states, as well. But since the ASHA website is conspicuously silent about which states use its service, the full list is a mystery.

ASHA’s behavior is a great departure from the way other organizations publish lists of state clients in an effort to attract new states to come on board. Moreover, since the company’s product is meant for public use by minors, its client list should be released. If ASHA serviced private companies or organizations, keeping a tight lid on its client list would be understandable, but since ASHA’s clients are state governments, the lack of transparency is suspicious at best. It looks as if both ASHA and its state clients are keeping a low profile to avoid publicity — or public scrutiny.

This subterfuge is further illustrated by the fact that Virginia only really popped up as an ASHA sex textline client in late September of 2020, when the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) mailed out 96,000 postcards to addresses across the commonwealth advertising the service to teens.

This marked the *official* launch of the service. But back on October 23, 2019, VDH tweeted under the Twitter handle @VDHLiveWell, “Got questions before you go all the way? Text Talk2MeVA to 66746 for free and anonymous answers!” That text carried the hashtags #Talk2Me, #SexEd, #SexualHealth, and #BirdsNBees. And even before that, Cover Virginia — a service provider directing Virginians to ObamaCare and Medicaid — sent out a tweet on October 15, 2019, saying, “NEW: @VDHgov is partnering with @InfoASHA so teens can share their questions about sex, sexuality, STIs, contraception, relationships, & more with a trained professional. Text ‘TALK2MEVA’ to 66746 and receive an answer within 24 hours from a certified health educator.”

Then, on January 22 of 2020, VDH sent a similar tweet, adding that it was addressed to even younger kids. The tweet read, “Teens and tweens, what questions do you want answers to before you go all the way? Text TALK2MEVA or 66746 for answers.”

None of those tweets performed very well: The top among them got two likes and two retweets. It



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appears that teens and tweens (preteens 11 and 12) don't follow VDH on Twitter. At any rate, the public — and for that matter, many Virginia state legislators — only became aware of the BrdsNBz textline in late September, though Virginia was clearly on board at least a year earlier.

And the subterfuge doesn't end there. Anyone looking at the postcards mailed to teens across Virginia would reasonably think that the textline is an official program of the state of Virginia. In reality, the textline is operated by a non-state organization, with the state of Virginia as its client.

The number provided on the postcard mailed by VDH is 66746. When one texts "Talk2MeVa" to that number, as this writer did, the response — from 833-933-6655 — is, "Success! 1. Reply to this text w/ your question or message. 2. Save this number in ur phone as Talk2MeVa to text us later. Reply stop to quit."

At this point, nothing in the text conversation tells the teen that he or she is texting a third party. The teen is instead encouraged to go ahead and ask a very personal sexual question — thinking he or she is communicating with a VDH employee. Only after sending the question is the teen informed that he or she is actually texting ASHA. That text reads, "Thnx 4 texting BrdsNBz — part of the American Sexual Health Association (ASHA). We'll get back 2 u ASAP. +Find info at <http://iwannaknow.org/>."

Not only does ASHA use subterfuge to engage kids in sexual conversations, but it immediately recommends one of its own websites as a resource while the teen (or preteen) waits for an answer. That website — cleverly named *I Wanna Know* — is a trove of "information."

Targeting Kids for Perversion With Targeted Marketing

ASHA appears to be at least as committed to perverting the minds of youth as it is keeping its client list a secret: The information found by clicking the link provided in the text is a deep dive into sexual perversion and encouragement of teen sex, as will be shown as this article digs down into some of that information.



Grooming teens: One website promoted via the BrdsNBz sex textline is iwannaknow.org — a website of ASHA. The site promotes the sex-hookup lifestyle and includes information about sexual acts most parents would deem perverse.

And while the postcards say the service is only for teens, remember that the January 22 tweet from



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VDH also addressed preteens — between the ages of 11 and 12. Furthermore, nothing prevents a child even younger from accessing the service and learning all about the Birds and the Bees. In fact, given the curiosity of kids, it is a foregone conclusion that many of them will learn about sex by using this service to have “anonymous” text conversations with adult strangers. And they will be directed to a litany of websites where they will “learn” even more.

In fact, the main page of *I Wanna Know* includes a list of buttons for visitors to click: “Sexual Health,” “STDs/STIs,” “Relationships,” “LGBTQ,” “Pregnancy & Parenthood,” and “Myths and Facts.”

Not surprisingly, the link on pregnancy and parenthood paints a bleak picture of teen pregnancy — including the facts that almost 448,000 young women aged 15–19 became pregnant in 2013 and that teen pregnancy puts a great deal of stress on the young mother, who is already coping with all the issues that go along with being a teen. The page ends with a link to the Orwellian-sounding “Office of Population Affairs” to help a teen who finds herself pregnant “search for a local family planning clinic” where she can have her unborn child aborted.

The Myths and Facts page is filled with information designed to make teens think sexual activity is appropriate for people their age. For instance, under the heading “The best way to avoid getting pregnant is to use a condom,” the “answer,” which begins with an accurate statement, quickly veers toward propaganda:

MYTH! The best way to avoid getting pregnant is through abstinence. Abstinence (not having any kind of sex) is the only 100% effective form of birth control. If abstinence isn’t an option, using a condom in combination with a hormonal form of birth control is a close second. For example, this could be a condom used together with the birth control pill.

But *why* wouldn’t abstinence be an option for unmarried teens? Of course, teens lacking a proper moral upbringing may see nothing wrong with sex before marriage. And even those who do may lack the self-control needed to overcome their sex drives. But this is not an argument for dismissing abstinence as a viable “option.” It is an argument, instead, for acquiring a moral compass, as well as the self-control to adhere to it, despite the temptations to deviate. Yet the moral understanding that needs to be an integral part of learning about sex is not part of a moral-neutral sex ed program such as this one.

But without providing even a fig leaf of moral understanding, the site exposes young people to information about the proper use of condoms, oral sex, anal sex, and other perverse sexual acts no child — or *adult* for that matter — should read about. There are links to Planned Parenthood, as well as a plethora of sites about living the LGBTQ+ life. And while the site does list some of the negative consequences of the free-sex lifestyle, those facts are scattered and are buried beneath an avalanche of material designed to *promote* the free-sex lifestyle.

The marketing used to promote the sex textline is disturbing, as well. The recently revealed BrdsNBz textline in Virginia is a good example. Slick, teen-targeted postcards promoting Governor Northam’s BrdsNBz textline were mailed to addresses all over Virginia. Those postcards are designed with artwork geared toward teens. It shows teens using mobile phones and taking selfies. The text on the front reads:

Have questions about sex, STIs, contraception, or relationships? Text TALK2MEVA to 66746 to get answers from a certified health educator within 24 hours. This textline is free and



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anonymous for any teen!

On the reverse side, the postcard shows five teens — three girls and two boys of various ethnic groups — using their mobile phones. The word-bubbles above the teens say:

Have a QUESTION about Brds 'N' Bz? Use a free and anonymous sexual health textline for teens. Get answers about relationships, contraception, sex, pregnancy, STIs, sexuality, + more!

It also directs teens to text Talk2MeVa to 66746 and includes the logos for both the Virginia Department of Health and the American Sexual Health Association.

It could be argued that the ASHA logo should signal to teens that they're communicating with a private entity. Yet even if teens immediately recognize that ASHA is private, the group is certainly given stature by the fact that the government is directing kids to it to learn about sex.

The teen-oriented graphics appear to be designed to make this postcard look and feel very appealing to young people. Many of the postcards are actually addressed to teens living at the addresses to which they are mailed. The cartoon drawings of both boys and girls is clearly intended to capture the interest of teens.

But that appears to be par for the course for both state agencies and non-state employees of ASHA, who recalcitrantly refuse to leave the moral education of teens and preteens to their parents. The moral education is the proper province of parents, not government. By launching this textline and mailing slick teen-oriented postcards to kids to draw them in, ASHA and the state governments involved are attempting to make an end-run around parents to reach kids with materials cleverly designed to appeal to their baser sexual inclinations and create an even greater sexualized youth culture. Let's hope that the parents see the material sent to their kids before their kids do — and if they don't, that their kids have already been given enough moral instruction at home to bring the material to the attention of their parents.

The usurpation of parental authority by the state and its private-sector partners is especially interesting since the ASHA website includes a page about parents talking to their kids about sex. The button leading to that page says, "You are your child's most important teacher. Be an askable parent."

The State as Parent

That page is filled with advice, beginning with, "Educating a child about sexual health is an important part of his or her healthy development. Their early understanding of sex, love, intimacy and their own sexuality can help mold their values, behavior, and even their self-image, for a lifetime." The page also asks, "Does your child feel it's okay to talk with you about sex and sexual health? If not, have you thought about who will answer your child's questions?"

Of course, that last question has already been answered for the parent. That answer comes in the form of postcards directing children as young as 13 to reach out to "anonymous" adults (i.e., strangers) to ask for guidance on "sex, love, intimacy and their own sexuality" so those strangers can "mold their values, behavior, and even their self-image, for a lifetime" by giving those children information about



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contraception, abortion, homosexual acts, masturbation, oral sex, anal sex, “gender identity,” and more.

The state and its approved organizations are the new parents. (Karl Marx would be proud.) And some parents they would be.

The Family Foundation, a nonprofit in Virginia dedicated to strengthening families, said the textline “contradicts everything we teach our kids about safety.” Family Foundation President Victoria Cobb told *The New American*, “We say, ‘Don’t talk to strangers. Don’t give out your phone number. Don’t send any inappropriate pictures. Everything you do on the phone is permanent.’ This sex textline is counter to all safe teaching about technology.” Cobb also told *The New American* that in the natural course of human families, parents are responsible for the moral training of their children, and this “overstepping” on the part of the state is unacceptable. “All adults should be encouraging kids to talk to their own parents about these sensitive topics,” she said, adding, “Having any conversation over technology about sex — especially with a stranger — is the exact opposite of the way any responsible parent trains their child.”

And former private investigator Kimberly Williams — who spent her career working in human trafficking interdiction and education — told *The New American*, “I would classify this sex line as a form of spray and prey grooming,” she said, since “It encourages children to talk to strangers in secret. It normalizes having adult to child sexual conversations. It also tells children that it is normal and acceptable to be isolated from their support system to discuss things that they may be uncomfortable with.” Kimberly says this is “straight out of the grooming children handbook.”



Children’s champion: Victoria Cobb serves as president of The Family Foundation (TFF) in Richmond, Virginia. Her organization is at the tip of the spear in exposing the BrdsNBz sex textline in Virginia. TFF has pointed out that this service usurps the God-given rights of parents to provide the moral education of their children. *(Photo credit: familyfoundation.org)*

Even if the adults behind this have zero *intention* of exposing teens to sexual predators, the end result is the same, since Kimberly points out, as “it’s still laying the groundwork for someone else to step in later.”

Once kids become habituated to keeping sexual secrets from parents — while secretly sharing them with adult strangers — those kids are low-hanging fruit for predators. Kimberly told *The New American*,



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“As a parent and a professional, I see nothing positive coming from this and I am dubious of the origins, given the persons in office and who would endorse or back them.”

Violating the Law?

And The Family Foundation also points to the fact that such textlines likely violate federal law. Since much of the funding for states to participate in schemes such as BrdsNBz is provided via Title V grants, the laws regarding the use of those funds must be followed. Those grants are designated for abstinence education or “education exclusively on sexual risk avoidance that teaches youth to voluntarily refrain from sexual activity.”

But *this* is not *that*. Instead, BrdsNBz is teaching kids as young as 11 or 12 (remember that “tween” tweet) to engage in oral, vaginal, and anal sex, so long as they do it “safely.” In a public statement, Family Foundation’s Cobb said, “Virginia’s sex textline is clearly not providing abstinence education and therefore represents, at best, an obvious misuse of federal funds, or worse, a flat-out violation of federal law.”

The service may even violate state laws by encouraging kids who are legally — not to mention *emotionally, mentally, and possibly even physically* — too young for sex to “go all the way,” as that January 22 tweet from VDH put it.

It is noteworthy that the age of consent in Virginia is 18, with a close-in-age exemption for sexual activity that applies *only if* both teens are between the ages of 15 and 17 or both are between the ages of 13 and 15. There is no provision for tweens. All sexual activity involving tweens would fall under the category of statutory rape, as would sex between teens who do not meet the criteria of the close-in-age exemption.

VDH and ASHA are encouraging sexual activity that the law classifies as a sex crime. And they are doing it with taxpayer dollars and over the objections of parents who are given — *by God* — the responsibility and authority to provide the moral training of their children.

The New Americanspoke with several parents across Virginia about the newly publicized sex textline there. What they had to say is illuminating and likely represents the feelings and insights of parents in other states where ASHA’s services (or similar services) are available.

Michael and Kimberly Lewis, both 34, live just outside Fredericksburg, Virginia, where they are the parents of three young children — ranging from nearly one year old to five. And though Michael and Kimberly are not parents of teens — and therefore not the parents of kids who are the immediate targets of this sex textline — Michael says they realize that their kids are future targets of this and other plans to subject kids to “sexual grooming.” He told The New American, “What it boils down to is sexual grooming of children — it would be one thing if the public schools said, ‘This is how reproduction works, but you are strongly encouraged to wait because if you get pregnant, it’s not good,’ but that’s not what they’re saying.” He went on to say, “They are *encouraging* teenagers to be sexually active.” (Emphasis in original.) Michael also said that this is “the state trying to steal children away from the family and usurp parental authority.”

Other parents agree. One of those parents is Mike Seeley. Mike and his wife, Anna, live near Powhatan, Virginia. They are the parents of 13 kids (10 boys, three girls) ranging from less than two years old to 26. Among their brood of children, Mike and Anna have a handful of teenagers. Mike said they had



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either not received the postcards or they were thrown out as junk mail. I sent Mike a copy of the postcard, and he said, “My first thought was, ‘Here we go again. This is another step in the decades-long attempt by the State to circumvent the parents’ authority — not only the parental authority to teach their children, but the moral authority of parents to instill morals in their children.’”



Baiting kids? As part of the effort to sweep up as many kids as possible in its net, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) sent postcards advertising its sex-line service to addresses all over the state. Many of those cards were addressed to the teens themselves, not to their parents. *(Photo credit: Imgorhand/GettyImagesPlus)*

He went on to say, “This is the State swooping in to say, ‘No, no, no. Don’t listen to your stone-age parents here. Here is what we do nowadays — we use contraception, we use these other types of things. You go ahead and do these activities that your parents might tell you otherwise or might deem to be inappropriate or immoral, but this is the 2000’s, you go ahead and do this. And if you find yourself pregnant, we have ways to take care of that.’” Mike called this “another manifestation” of what began with sex-ed classes in public schools, adding that it’s “another approach to get kids away from the morals their parents may want to instill in them.”

Another Virginia parent of both teens and younger kids who spoke to The New American is Meghan Doran. Meghan and her husband, Bill, live in Midlothian, where they are raising their nine kids, ranging in age from infant to almost 18. Meghan and Bill agree that the primary responsibility to educate kids about sex and sexuality belongs to the parents and that this is an attempt on the part of the State to further usurp that authority. Meghan is a stay-at-home, homeschooling mom, and Bill teaches Theology, Philosophy, and Latin at an all-boys’ Catholic high school in the Richmond area.

Meghan told The New American, “As officials of the State, they are asking my children to anonymously — I don’t know who these people are and how they are vetted — contact them with questions that I wouldn’t want them to contact their own grandmother about without me being involved.”

The insights and sentiments of Michael, Mike, and Meghan are representative of what other parents shared with this writer. Now if only a few million more just like them would put pressure on the states to defund this program, we might take a small step back toward sanity.



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