Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Program

Social Services Committee
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CSEC In Alameda County

- On average, Alameda County Assessment Center sees approximately 75-100 CSEC (identified, suspected) per year;

- Westcoast Children’s Clinic provides specialized mental health services for over 100 CSEC per year;

- MISSSEY provides survivor informed community advocacy, case management and drop-in services for approximately 200 youth annually;

- SafetyNet has served 508 CSEC and at-risk youth; 70% were confirmed as CSEC.
DCFS’ s current response to the issue of CSEC:

• Provide on-site CSEC Advocacy to youth entering the Alameda County Assessment Center (includes 20, 60, 90 day follow-ups.)

• CSEC specific case management services made available to all CSEC.

• Participate on weekly Safety Net meetings.

• Collaborating with CSEC serving agencies to address the needs of CSEC in foster care.

• Provide CSEC specific training to all new classes of CWWs (since 2008).

• Provide on-going training opportunities to staff,

• Completed first round of state mandated training for all CWW staff.
Federal Legislation

H.R. 4980 “Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act” (May 2014)

- Mandates that states must develop policies to identify, document and determine appropriate services for CSEC or at risk;

- Requires that states report within 24 hours children that are identified as CSEC to law enforcement;

- Requires states to report total number of CSEC to the US Department of Human Services;

- Requires reporting of CSEC via AFCARS of youth who were victimized before entering foster care and while in foster care.

- Requires stats to develop procedures to locate children missing from foster care, determine what occurred and screen for CSE.

- Requires state agencies to report to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC)

Note: Implementation of provisions is staggered over 1-3 year period.
State Legislation

SB 855 (2014)
- Updated the Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) to include CSEC as a population falling under the jurisdiction of child welfare.

- Created voluntary CSEC program for counties who choose to participate in the development and implementation of a CSEC Program. (CSEC “Opt-In” Program)

- Provided funding of $5 million for FY 2014/15; and $14 million annually, beginning in 2015/16

“The Legislature finds and declares that a child who is sexually trafficked, as described in Section 236.1 of the Penal Code, or who receives food or shelter in exchange for, or who is paid to perform, sexual acts described in Section 236.1 or 11165.1 of the Penal Code, and whose parent or guardian failed to, or was unable to, protect the child, is within the description of this subdivision, and that this finding is declaratory of existing law. These children shall be known as commercially sexually exploited children.” CA WIC 300 (b) (2)
Cross Agency Collaboration

In response to SB 855, Alameda County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has formed the Social Services Agency (SSA) **DCFS Interagency CSEC Steering Committee**.

- Led by the Department of Children and Family Services; co-facilitated by Westcoast Children’s Clinic.

- Included Probation, Juvenile Court, County Counsel, law enforcement, Office of the Public Defender, District Attorney, Behavioral Health, Public Health and community based organizations that serve CSEC.

- Focused on improving cross-system collaboration, interagency protocols and seamless integrated specialized services.

- Began meeting in February 2015.

- Drafted and submitted CSEC Program Proposal (6/30/15) and MOU outlining protocols (10/1/15)

- Awarded 1.1 Million for CSEC supports and services.
• **Oversight Structure:**
  - Executive Committee
  - Steering Committee

• **First Responder Protocol**
  - Responding to child’s location within 2 hours
  - Providing individual case by case collaboration
  - Engaging youth and families/caregivers (as appropriate)
  - Ensuring basic needs are met (food, shelter, medical care)
  - Assessing and addressing immediate medical needs
  - Advising on appropriate placement
  - Transporting child to designated placement

• **Multi-Disciplinary Team**
  - Immediate consult MDT
  - Initial MDT
  - On-going MDT

- Victim centered
- Trauma informed
- Strengths based
- Developmentally appropriate
- Culturally, linguistically & GLBT competent and affirming
- Committed to engaging CSEC early and often
- Multidisciplinary
  - Flexible
  - Timely
- Data and outcome driven
Screening Tools:
WestCoast Children’s Clinic Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT) pilot, currently being implemented at the Assessment Center, to ensure that all youth entering foster care or changing placements are screened for sexual exploitation.

Data Collection:
Implementation of new CSEC Special Project Codes (SPCs) issues by the state beginning 11/2015.

- CSEC Victim During care
- CSEC Victim Before Care
- CSEC At Risk
- CSEC Absence From Placement
Our Partners

Steering Committee Members:
- Superior Court of California County of Alameda Juvenile Court
- Alameda County Probation
- Alameda County Public Health
- Alameda County Behavioral Healthcare Services
- Alameda County District Attorney’s Office
- Alameda County Public Defender’s Office
- Alameda County Sherriff’s Department

- Bay Area Women Against Rape
- Oakland Police Department
- Hayward Police Department
- Casey Family Programs
- East Bay Children’s Law Offices
- MISSSEY
- Native American Health Clinic
- Westcoast Children’s Clinic

Other contributing partners:
- Foster Youth Alliance (FYA)
- UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland
- Lincoln Child Center
Next Steps

- Executive and Steering Committees to meet in December to finalize funding allocation plan;

- Roll out of protocols in 2016.