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August 26, 2014

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
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From: Philip L. Browning
Director

Jerry Powers
Chief Probation Officer

RESPONSE TO THE JUNE 24, 2014 BOARD MOTION MANDATING SEX TRAFFICKING TRAINING FOR FOSTER PARENT AND GROUP HOME PROVIDERS

This report is in response to your Board's motion which instructed the directors of the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation to:

1. Develop a training curriculum on prevention and intervention strategies on child sex trafficking for foster care and group home providers;

2. Pursuant to the development of the curriculum, DCFS and Probation shall amend its agreements with foster and group home providers to mandate that all such providers be trained according to the developed curriculum;

3. Prepare an estimated budget for the cost required to implement county-wide this mandated training; and

4. Report back within 60 days in writing on the training curriculum and a plan for county-wide implementation.

DCFS and Probation are carrying out the Board of Supervisor's directive to combat the sex trafficking of children in Los Angeles County by collaborating with the Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Health, the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, Law Enforcement and other agencies.

The collaborating agencies have appointed commercial sexually exploited children (CSEC) liaisons to facilitate inter-agency communication and coordinate joint work on behalf of sexually exploited children.

1. Training Curriculum

Two introductory e-learning modules on CSEC are being developed by the Probation Department for a broad audience, including out-of-home care providers. This "CSEC 101" curriculum is an introduction and covers the following critical topics:

- CSEC Terms and Definitions
- Understanding the Demand for the Sale of Children and Youth
- Risk Factors to CSEC
- Continuum of Sexual Abuse, Sexual Exploitation of Children (SEC), and CSEC
- The Violence of CSEC
- Physical, Psychological, Social and Spiritual Impact of CSEC
- CSEC Street Terminology
- Needs of CSEC Victims
- CSEC Victim Identification
- Do's and Don'ts of Appropriate Engagement with CSEC Victims

Foster care and group home providers have additional training needs in order to understand and work with the CSEC population. DCFS is working with the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), to build upon the two introductory "CSEC 101" modules and develop a third e-learning module specific to this audience. Foster care and group home providers will be required to take all three modules.

In June, UCLA hired CSEC expert Nola Brantley to draft the curriculum for foster care and group home providers. This curriculum is being vetted by DCFS, Probation, the University of Southern California (USC) School of Social Work, the Association of Community Human Service Agencies (ACHSA), and David and Margaret Youth and Family Services. Once completed, the curriculum will be converted to an e-learning to be piloted by selected foster care and group home providers. Upon finalization, three large-scale, "kick-off" events will introduce and promote this e-learning to foster family agencies and group home provider representatives so the e-learning can be used to educate their staff and caregiver families.

The third e-learning module curriculum educates out-of-home care providers, including administrators and direct service staff from group homes, foster care parents and foster family agencies. The curriculum aims to improve engagement and support of youth in out-of-home care and to prevent out-of-home care youth from being commercially sexually exploited through better identification of at-risk youth and CSEC recruiters. The objectives of the third module for out-of-home providers are to:

- Become knowledgeable about what CSEC is;
- Learn strategies for positive engagement and building trusting relationships with CSEC victims and survivors;
- Become familiar with the CSEC Stages of Change model;

- Learn potential warning signs for CSEC recruitment;
- Identify the needs of CSEC victims and survivors;
- Become aware of the specific programming and polices CSEC victims and survivors need to support their continued healing;
- Understand the psychological and social impact out-of-home care has on CSEC victims and survivors; and
- Become familiar with Los Angeles County CSEC protocol.

The following topics are covered in the third e-learning curriculum:

- CSEC 101 Overview
- CSEC Identification and Disclosures
- CSEC Engagement
- CSEC Recruitment
- Needs of CSEC Victims and Survivors
- Creating a Safe and Open space for CSEC Victims and Survivors
- CSEC Scenarios and Testimonies
- Los Angeles County CSEC Protocol

2. Amending Agreements with Foster and Group Home Providers

Upon finalization of the CSEC curriculum, DCFS and Probation will amend its contracts with FFA and GH Providers to require that staff and certified parents be trained according to the developed curriculum.

3. Estimated Budget

Developing the CSEC curriculum for foster care and group home providers is an unplanned cost in the current training budget. Additional costs to roll out an ambitious CSEC implementation schedule that will include e-learning conversion by an instructional designer, and piloting and revision of the e-learning module, have not yet been determined. However, the budget to convene the three previously described kick-off events for roughly 450 providers, (venue, food and trainer), is approximately $52,500.

4. Implementation Plan

Consultant Nola Brantley completed three CSEC curriculums, currently being vetted, which, following piloting, will be converted into e-learning modules. Following piloting of the e-learning modules, three kick-off events will be scheduled at various locations throughout the County.

The plan for county-wide implementation is to provide easy access to the e-learning modules county-wide via a web based portal accessible to anyone who wants to complete the training for free. UCLA is putting a learning management system in place for tracking and certification processes.

If you have any questions, please call us or your staff may contact Aldo Marin, DCFS Office of Board Relations, at (213) 351-5530.

PLB:MR
PWD:lsk

c: County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Department of Mental Health
Department of Public Health
District Attorney