

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Family and Social Services

FESIA A. DAVENPORT
Chief Executive Officer



DATE: Wednesday, January 20, 2020
TIME: 1:30 PM

DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF ALL COUNTY BUILDINGS, MEETING PARTICIPANTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL NEED TO CALL IN TO PARTICIPATE:

Teleconference Call-In Number: (323) 776-6996/ Conference ID: 599 009 090#

AGENDA

Members of the Public may address agenda item. Three (3) minutes are allowed for each item.

- I. Call to Order
- II. **Presentation/Discussion Items:**
 - a. **Department of Children and Family Services/ Probation:** Los Angeles County Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Integrated Leadership Team.
 - b. **County Counsel:** New Dependency Laws for 2021.
- III. Items continued from a previous meeting of the Board of Supervisors or from a previous FSS Agenda Review meeting.
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Adjournment



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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RAY LEYVA

Interim Chief Probation Officer

February 9, 2021

TO: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Ray Leyva
Interim Chief Probation Officer
CSEC Integrated Leadership Team

SUBJECT: **LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMERCIALY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN (CSEC) INTEGRATED LEADERSHIP TEAM (ILT) ITEM R-1, AGENDA OF MARCH 8, 2016**

The last ILT report to the Board was provided on October 13, 2020. The current ILT report will cover the following updates:

- 1) Law Enforcement First Responder Protocol (FRP),
- 2) CSEC Advocacy Services,
- 3) CSEC Training,
- 4) Housing for Children and Youth Impacted by Commercial Sexual Exploitation, and
- 5) Healthier Communities, Stronger Families, Thriving Children (HST), Senate Bill (SB) 855 and Senate Bill (SB) 794 Budget Allowance and Spending Plan

I. LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRST RESPONDER PROTOCOL UPDATES

The FRP was originally implemented on August 14, 2014, and continues to serve as a guide to law enforcement, county agencies, and community-based advocates on appropriate steps to take within the first 72 hours of interfacing with an identified or suspected CSEC victim, using a victim-centered, multi-agency response model approach. From August 14, 2014 through December 15, 2020, there were a total of 938 recoveries. Since the last ILT report on October 13, 2020, there have been an additional 29 recoveries in the FRP areas.

Law Enforcement First Responder Protocol for CSEC Six-Year Data Report:

August 15, 2020 marked the sixth year since the FRP was implemented. The six-year FRP Report, titled "*What We've Learned: A Six Year Update*," is included in this report as **Attachment A**. The report provides a historical account of why and how the Protocol was created, FRP goals, a description of services provided during the first 72 hours of law enforcement identifying a possibly commercially sexually exploited youth (CSEY), trends in FRP data, demographics of

youth identified through the FRP, as well as lessons learned. The most critical lessons learned after six years include:

- 1) CSEC Training for law enforcement and FRP partners is critical to ensuring that possible CSE youth are not only identified, but also appropriately engaged to begin building rapport and trust so the youth is more willing to accept interventions to promote their safety and well-being;
- 2) The development of collaboration, partnership and consistent communication among FRP parties is essential to have open and honest dialogue to discuss challenges, identify trends, and adapt responses to resolve problems;
- 3) It is important to collaborate and communicate across County and State lines since victims are exploited in other counties and states, and many youth are involved in other child welfare and juvenile justice jurisdictions;
- 4) Increased support is essential for transition age youth (TAY) by extending FRP advocacy and system response for youth whose exploitation may continue after turning 18; and
- 5) It is critical for FRP partners to track performance data indicators to examine areas in the FRP that are working well and inform areas that need more attention. Tracking and monitoring data promotes shared accountability in continuously working toward improved outcomes for youth.

II. CSEC ADVOCACY SERVICES UPDATE

On September 24, 2019, the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS), through a Request for Proposals (RFP), awarded advocacy contracts to Saving Innocence and ZOE International to increase capacity and expand services to those who are not only victims of CSEC, but also those at-risk of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). In addition, the contract was expanded to provide services to Non-Minor Dependent (NMD) youth (18-21 years old) who are either at-risk or victims of CSE.

Since the start of the new contract, there have been 325 CSEC Advocacy Referrals, with an average of 20 referrals completed each month from October 1, 2019 through November 30, 2020. Since the last ILT report to the Board, there have been an additional 88 CSEC Advocacy Services referrals. As of November 13, 2020, there are 191 active CSEC Advocacy Service cases.

Through CSEC Advocacy Services and to improve outcomes in safety, permanency, well-being and self-sufficiency, youth are provided with the following:

- 1) FRP crisis response by an advocate or a survivor advocate (an individual who has lived experience as a child/youth victim of exploitation);
- 2) Early and frequent engagement with the youth to build trust with the advocate and stabilize the youth to reduce the likelihood of running away;
- 3) Engagement of youth, caregiver, and Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)/Child and Family Team (CFT) members around Safety Planning;
- 4) Advocacy case planning based on a strengths and needs assessment and the MDT/CFT process;
- 5) Intensive case management services to ensure linkage to resources and supports;
- 6) Workshops for youth on prevention, intervention and independent living/self-sufficiency skills;
- 7) Access to funding for services/goods to increase a sense of well-being by maximizing normalizing opportunities (may include removing physical signs of exploitation such as

- tattoos that provide stigma and interfere with employment opportunities; repairing teeth that may have been damaged through inflicted injury; providing therapeutic activities not covered by Medi-Cal; providing appropriate clothing and self-care products; and providing educational support through tutoring and skill building);
- 8) Workshops for parents/legal guardians and primary caregivers of youth impacted by CSE
 - 9) Victim witness testimony support for youth testifying against their trafficker(s); and
 - 10) Empowerment activities that provide a sense of community and support to the youth while also enjoying positive recreational and enrichment activities.

Engagement events and activities with the youth have been modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic to reduce the spread of the disease and keep both youth and adults safe. Instead of having the in-person, 3-day, 2-night annual Empowerment Conference for youth impacted by exploitation, a virtual Empowerment Month was created during which 14 workshops were offered throughout the month of October. CSEC Survivor Advocates and adult supporters from the DCFS, Probation, Department of Mental Health (DMH), Children's Law Center, CSEC Advocacy Agencies, Saving Innocence and ZOE International connected with and supported the youth in a thoroughly engaging virtual format.

As a part of their contract, the advocacy agencies provide both survivor and parent advocacy services. The Parent Empowerment Program (PEP), a 10-week psycho-educational and support program for parents and primary caregivers of CSEY, has been held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the last PEP Cohort in which both English and Spanish-speaking virtual PEP sessions were implemented, 77% (20 of the 26 participants) of the English-speaking PEP participants and 75% (6 of the 8) of Spanish-speaking PEP participants graduated, which is considered successful given the instability and hardships faced by families impacted by CSE. Each session was co-facilitated by a clinician as well as a parent advocate with lived experience of parenting a child who was a victim of CSE, and persevered through the journey towards healing and recovery with their child.

Parents continue to report gratitude for the information and support provided by the program. Since the inception of the PEP program to date, a total of 98 parents registered, with 62 (63%) of the parents successfully graduating. Successful graduation is defined as completing 8 of the 10 sessions provided during a cohort. It should be noted that there has been greater attendance by parents in the virtual environment, as virtual PEP is easier to access and does not require parents to travel or find childcare as in the regular in-person sessions.

CSEC Prevention Services

Early, quick, and consistent intervention is critical to address youth at high risk of exploitation to avoid victimization and increase a child and families' ability to have a heightened sense of awareness of CSEC, and to support them in mitigating risks and building their protective capacities and resiliency. Stakeholders agree that prevention is key, deserves greater attention, and that additional efforts should be made to provide structured prevention services to youth determined to be at-risk to divert youth from the devastating impact exploitation has on a youth's development.

In recognition of the importance of prevention, DCFS, along with Probation, will amend the CSEC Advocacy Services contract to include a CSEC Prevention Services component. There are instances in which a youth is referred to the Child Protection Hotline or Probation for investigation, is subsequently assessed, and is found to not meet the need for DCFS/Probation

supervision, but would still benefit from receiving CSEC Prevention Services. To support prevention efforts, the ILT intends to utilize \$175,000 in HST funds for prevention services. It is estimated that this amount will provide one year of prevention services for 30 or more youth, depending on the level of need of the youth referred. As a result, we expect that youth who are at-risk for victimization will be diverted from CSE, receive preventative services, and not re-referred to the Child Protection Hotline for CSE victimization.

DCFS' Contracts Division will amend the CSEC Advocacy Services contract to add the prevention component to the program upon the Board's approval of utilizing HST funds to support prevention efforts.

III. CSEC TRAINING UPDATE

On November 14, 2017, a motion by Supervisor Janice Hahn instructed the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to add the CSEC training module to their online offerings, requiring Los Angeles County employees to participate in this training as part of their new employee orientation. In May 2018, the CSEC online training was made available to all county employees through the Learning Net, and on August 1, 2018, an email notification was sent out to all county departments informing them that the training was mandatory for all county employees. As of December 17, 2020, a total of 77,983 (75%) county employees have completed the mandatory training, an increase of 7% since the last ILT report in October 2020. See **Attachment B** for training compliance by Department.

On September 28, 2020, DHR requested that Probation provide a script of the training module to provide a closed-caption option. On November 20, 2020, Probation provided the video narratives to DHR. DHR is in the process of adding the narratives to the existing training module, and expects completion in early 2021.

CSEC and Human Trafficking Training Request for Proposals (RFP)

On September 15, 2020, Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Sheila Kuehl moved that the Office of Child Protection (OCP), in collaboration with DCFS and Probation, conduct an expedited solicitation to vendors with known CSEC expertise to provide training to community members, service providers, DCFS, Probation, other county departments, law enforcement agencies, and any other external partners as a means of prevention and intervention.

DCFS and Probation worked with OCP to prepare and release an RFP to establish a new contract for CSEC and Human Trafficking Training Services. On December 10, 2020, the RFP was released to 15 agencies with known expertise in the field of CSEC and Human Trafficking. An overview of the milestones and associated timeframes towards launching the new training contract by March 1, 2021, is as follows:

Milestones	Target Date
Board Approval Request	09/11/2020 - Completed
Release of (RFP) Solicitation Document	12/10/2020 - Completed
Written Questions Due	12/23/2020 - Completed
Questions and Answers Released	12/30/2020 - Completed
Proposals Due	01/20/2021
Letter to those who do not meet minimum requirements	01/29/2021
Evaluation of proposals	02/08/2021

Send award letters	02/12/2021
Contract start date	03/01/2021

Efforts are currently being made to recruit Evaluators from DCFS, Probation, the Department of Health Services (DHS), DMH, and the Department of Public Health (DPH) to conduct a multi-disciplinary review and rating of applications. Once a contractor has been selected, OCP will conclude their work on the RFP and DCFS will be responsible for signing, managing, and monitoring of the contract.

IV. HOUSING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IMPACTED BY COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION UPDATE

On September 15, 2020, Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Sheila Kuehl moved that OCP, in collaboration with DCFS and Probation, conduct an expedited solicitation to vendors with known CSEC expertise to increase the number of home-based placement options available for exploited children and youth.

DCFS and Probation have been working with OCP to prepare and release an RFP to establish a contract(s) for a Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Intensive Services Foster Care Program (CSEC-ISFC) specifically designed for children and youth impacted by CSE. The Statement of Work is currently undergoing review for finalization, and the sample contract is under development. It is estimated that the CSEC-ISFC RFP will be released in March 2021.

Saving Innocence and ZOE International, both of whom have CSEC Advocacy Services contracts with LA County, are developing additional housing options for CSEY and NMDs. Saving Innocence established a licensed ISFC Foster Family Agency (FFA) program for CSEY, and accepted their first youth to be placed in their licensed ISFC FFA home on August 21, 2020. While Saving Innocence does not yet have an ISFC FFA contract with DCFS or Probation, DCFS was able to place a youth through them using the non-contracted provider process until a contract can be established.

In addition, ZOE International built their new 6-bed home, and is awaiting to receive their state STRTP licensure approval. The goal is to open their doors to girls between the ages of 12-17 by January 2021.

V. SB 855, SB 794 AND HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES, STRONG FAMILIES, THRIVING CHILDREN (HST), BUDGET ALLOWANCE AND SPENDING PLAN

The source of CSEC funding for LA County originated from SB855/SB794 (State funding) and HST funds (Board funding), which were allocated to support the strategic priorities developed to identify, assess, locate, and provide treatment services to address the needs of CSEY and their families to achieve the overarching goals of child safety, permanency, and well-being.

On December 8, 2020, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) issued County Fiscal Letter (CFL) No. 20/21-50 outlining the SB855/SB794 FY 2020-21 funding allocation to LA County DCFS in the amount of \$2,928,281, a \$97,221 decrease from the FY 2019-20 allocation. The reduced allocation is due to the state's associated costs with additional counties opting-in to the CSEC Program, a new state training contract, and technical assistance provided by the Prevention and Addressing Child Trafficking (PACT) Project to implement a state- and

county-level coordinated cross-system, interagency collaborative model to serve child labor and sex trafficking victims.

The SB855 and SB794 CSEC Spending Plan is included as **Attachment C**. Below is a description of LA County's FY 2020-21 CSEC Spending Plan for the state-allocated funds:

1) CSEC Advocacy Contracts (\$1,800,000):

DCFS contracts with Saving Innocence and ZOE International to provide intervention services for youth, ages 7-21 years, that are at-risk or victims of CSE. Advocates and Survivor Advocates provide crisis response, intensive case management, and youth engagement around safety planning, a strengths and needs assessment, and development of goals that the youth would like to achieve. Empowerment workshops and events are provided to youth and a Parent Empowerment Program along with Parent Advocacy services are provided to parents of CSEC.

2) CSEC Restoration Funds (\$25,000):

Individualized Incidental Restoration Funds are accessible to CSEY in order to: stabilize crisis situations and meet acute needs of CSEC victims who come to the attention of DCFS or Probation; decrease re-entry by maximizing normalizing opportunities (i.e., removing physical signs of exploitation such as tattoos that provide stigma and interfere with employment opportunities; repair teeth that may have been damaged through inflicted injury; or providing appropriate clothing and self-care products); provide educational support through tutoring, skill building, and experiential activities; increase employability by providing specialized vocational training opportunities (e.g., cosmetology school or computer tech school); and support parenting youth by providing support to meet the basic needs of their children.

3) Funding Agreement with Children's Law Center (CLC) - Dedication to Restoration, Empowerment, Advocacy and Mentoring (DREAM) Court (\$295,000):

This funding is utilized to assist CLC in covering the costs associated with serving CSEC youth, specifically to fund the CLC case manager positions, training, and CSEC support and relationship development.

4) Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) Locate Team (\$100,000):

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Human Trafficking Bureau (HTB) assists DCFS and Probation with the location of missing CSEC youth. SB794 funds are used by DCFS to fund overtime for LASD HTB officers to locate missing CSEC youth.

5) Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Locate Team (\$100,000):

DCFS utilizes CSEC funds to fund overtime for LAPD officers to assist with the location and recovery of missing DCFS/Probation CSEC youth.

6) Time study costs (\$600,000):

Funds to pay for two CSEC specialized management roles to develop CSEC-specific contracts, monitor contract program and fiscal monitoring, policy, programming, training, community partnerships, and continuous quality improvement processes; work/case management duties by two DREAM Court (specialized CSEC Dependency Court) Liaisons, as well as two Child Protection Hotline staff to report on CSEC data tracking activities.

The HST Budget is included in **Attachment D**, reflecting the original budget line items and spending plans from FY 2015-16 through FY 2019-2020, and the revised line-item budget items and spending plan for FY 2020-2021. HST budget revisions are as follows:

1) CSEC Training

Training will continue to be provided to increase awareness of how to identify youth who may be at risk of becoming victims, understanding the risks and vulnerabilities linked to CSEC, exploiter tactics, youth engagement strategies, stages of change model and how to support a youth in the various stages of change, continuum of abuse, impact of trauma, intervention strategies, vicarious trauma, post traumatic growth development, and social media training for county staff, placement providers, and the community to raise awareness of the dangers of social media, which is often used as a platform by traffickers to manipulate children and youth into exploitation.

As mentioned in the training section of this report, the new training contract is expected to begin March 1, 2021. The three-year contract amount will be \$1,000,000, which is \$333,333 per year for 3 years. The training contract will be funded through HST, which will be transferred from the housing line item to the training line item.

2) CSEC Prevention Services

Prevention services will be provided for youth whose DCFS referral/case or Probation case has been terminated but is deemed necessary and beneficial that advocacy services be continued to support the youth. Advocacy services will include case management, CSEC survivor, and parent advocacy, as well as access to individualized incidental restoration funds.

CSEC prevention services will be funded for FY 2020-21 at \$175,000. Funds for this newly created line item will be transferred from the County CSEC Website line item.

In the next report in June 2021, the ILT will provide an update regarding all CSEC Initiatives that are underway, a description of each initiative, strategic goals, progress to date, and projected implementation dates. These updates will include, but are not limited to, the following initiatives:

- Senate Bill (SB) 855
- Senate Bill (SB) 794
- Law Enforcement First Responder's Protocol and Research Recommendations
- Safe Youth Zone
- Victim Witness Testimony Protocol
- Detention Interagency CSEC Identification and Response Protocol
- Advocacy Services
- Training

- Prevention/Intervention Workshops for Youth, Parents and Caregivers
- CSEC Housing and Services
- Efforts to Hold Exploiters and Buyers Accountable

Should your Board have any questions or require additional information, please contact Probation Director Michelle Guymon and (661) 236-5405.

RL:TF:fc

Attachments (4)

c: Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
Celia Zavala, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Alex Villanueva, Sheriff, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Rodrigo Castro-Silva, County Counsel
Bobby Cagle, Director, Department of Children & Family Services
Daryl L. Osby, Fire Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department
Jonathan E. Sherin, Director, Department of Mental Health
Barbara Ferrer, Director, Department of Public Health
Antonia Jimenez, Director, Department of Public Social Services
Justice Deputies
Children's Deputies
CSEC ILT Members