

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS DON KNABE AND
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**

July 26, 2016

ESTABLISHING CSEC PROTOCOLS

Over the past five years, Los Angeles County (County) has pioneered life-saving programming and services for commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and those at risk of exploitation. In a relatively short period of time, the County has developed innovative approaches to identify and more effectively serve this population. Two such examples include the Law Enforcement First Responder Protocol (FRP), which governs efforts within the first 72 hours a victim is identified, and the Succeeding through Achievement and Resilience (STAR) Court, a specialized court that is staffed with professionals who understand the unique needs and challenges of CSEC. Both the FRP and STAR Court have received national accolades and recognition. The success of both programs has been predicated on multi-agency collaborations and the formalization of clear protocols.

In 2015, the Board of Supervisors established the CSEC Integrated Leadership Team (ILT), which consists of the 10 County departments most heavily engaged in the

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prevention, intervention, deterrence, enforcement and prosecution of this reprehensible crime. Led jointly by the Departments of Probation, Sheriff's, and Children and Family Services , the CSEC ILT has identified the development of interagency protocols as an essential component of its strategic plan to end CSEC and assist victims in their recovery.

One such protocol includes the formalization of identification processes in the County's juvenile halls and camps. An interagency protocol would enable staff from County departments and from Juvenile Court Health Services to better identify these youth, ensure their needs are met while in custody, and support them as they transition to the community or to placement. Another protocol must be developed for the new Dedication to Restoration through Empowerment, Advocacy & Mentoring (DREAM) Court, the specialized court for CSEC youth within the Dependency Court system.

Additionally, the County should evaluate housing approaches for victims in various stages of recovery. Anecdotal evidence suggests that certain types of placements with a combination of services are effective at engaging and stabilizing CSEC. Unfortunately, the County lacks methodological research that substantiates this evidence. Further study is needed to determine which combination of placement and services most improves outcomes for CSEC. This will have tremendous value to the County and other jurisdictions throughout the state and country as the County moves forward in its efforts to improve outcomes for the CSEC population.

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In order to continue the County's trailblazing and impactful work, there is a need to engage experts in codification and research. This will allow for increased expertise, consistency in practice, and better outcomes for the CSEC population. Resources are available through the County's Healthier Communities, Stronger Families, Thriving Children funds and the State's SB 855 funds.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the CSEC ILT, in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of the Office of Child Protection to report back in 30 days with:

1. A list and description of CSEC interagency protocols that need to be created, developed, updated or finalized;
2. A plan and timeline for ensuring these protocols are completed;
3. Recommendations for how best to conduct housing placement research; and
4. A budget for protocol completion and housing placement research.

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