Resources

Local Resources

LA County Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-540-4000

LA Metro Taskforce: 1-800-655-4095

LA County 211 (211.org)

National Resources

National Human Trafficking Hotline:

1-888-373-7888

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:

1-800-273-8255

California Youth Crisis Hotline: 1-800-843-5200

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children:

1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

Department of Mental Health

ACCESS Center

For free, confidential mental health information, referrals to service providers, and crisis counseling at any day or time, call our 24/7 ACCESS Center at (800) 854-7771

For more information and inquiries:
CSECInfo@dmh.lacounty.gov
or
Visit our Website:
http://dmh.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dmh/our_services/tay

WELLNESS • RECOVERY • RESILIENCE

9/17

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Chief Deputy Director: Robin Kay, Ph.D.
Medical Director: Roderick Shaner, M.D.

CSECY Initiatives & Efforts

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH
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LOS ANGELES COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

SYSTEM OF CARE BUREAU

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children & Youth

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What is CSECY?

The commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth (CSECY) is a form of human trafficking that involves the exchange of money, goods, or services to a third person or persons for the sexual use of a child. Youth are recruited by force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The child is treated as a commercial and sexual object. This is a form of child sexual abuse that is experienced primarily by girls and increasingly by boys.
Commercial sexual exploitation can occur through:

⇒ Pornography
⇒ Stripping
⇒ Erotic/nude massage
⇒ Escort services
⇒ Private parties
⇒ Gang-based exploitation
⇒ Interfamilial exploitation

Beginning in September of 2013, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion to establish a multi-agency, countywide response model to combat the growing problem of child sex trafficking. The Board of Supervisors continues to approve motions to ensure safety and quality of services to these youth. An interagency approach ensures that all needs of this population are addressed, including mental health.

DMH is committed to ensuring that youth who experience commercial sexual exploitation are identified within our programs and provided appropriate services and supports.

Psychological Impact of Exploitation

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Somatization
- Impulsivity
- Self-harm behaviors
- Paranoia
- Shame
- Fear
- Withdrawal
- Anger
- Inability to trust
- Dissociation
- Hopelessness
- Suicidal ideation
- Hyper-sexualization
- Cognitive impairment

Potential Indicators of Exploitation

- History of emotional, physical, or sexual abuse;
- Multiple reports of running away with no explanation of whereabouts;
- Involvement in relationships with adults or older men;
- Visible signs of abuse: bruises, black eyes, cuts;
- Branding or tattoos that indicate ownership;
- Gang involvement;
- Evidence of sexually transmitted diseases;
- Substance use/abuse;
- Withdrawal or lack of interest in previous activities;
- Unexplained shopping trips, expensive clothing, jewelry, or cell phone.

Trauma-Informed Practices

The following Trauma-Informed Practices are recommended when providing mental health treatment to CSECY:

1. **Individual Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (ages 18+):** an early intervention for individuals who either have or may be at risk for symptoms of anxiety, depression, and trauma.
2. **Trauma Focused CBT (TF-CBT) (ages 3-18):** an early intervention for youth who may be at risk for symptoms of depression and trauma.
3. **Seeking Safety (SS) (ages 13+):** a present-focused therapy to help people attain safety from trauma and substance abuse.
4. **Crisis Oriented Recovery Services (CORS) (ages 3+):** a short term intervention designed to provide immediate crisis intervention, case management, and warm linkage to ongoing services.