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[CLICK HERE FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES' REPORT DATED APRIL 22, 2026](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER'S REPORT DATED MAY 21, 2026](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES' REPORT DATED JUNE 8, 2026](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT'S REPORT DATED JULY 7, 2026](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER'S REPORT DATED JULY 7, 2026](#)

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BRANDON T. NICHOLS
Director

JENNIE FERIA
Chief Deputy Director

LISA E. MANDEL
Acting Chief Deputy Director

County of Los Angeles

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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Board of Supervisors

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Fifth District

April 22, 2026

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Brandon T. Nichols 
Director

REPORT BACK REGARDING THE APRIL 7, 2026 BOARD MOTION (ITEM NO. 22) STRENGTHENING SERVICES AND ALIGNING RESOURCES FOR PROBATION AND FOSTER YOUTH IMPACTED BY HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On April 7, 2026, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Probation Officer, the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and the Department of Youth Development (DYD) to report back at intervals of 15, 30, 60, and 90 days.

This report provides DCFS' 15-day report-back information, as directed by the Board and summarized below:

1. Summary of yearly unspent funds (Healthier Communities, Stronger Families, Thriving Children [HST] and 2011 State Realignment [2011-R]) allocated for the Human Trafficking Training contract for the past four fiscal years, including whether funds were rolled over to the following fiscal year, reallocated, or returned, and an explanation of the use of existing carryover HST funds given the level of unspent funds during this period (Table A).
2. Summary of yearly unspent funds allocated for Advocacy Services for Youth Impacted by Commercial Sexual Exploitation (Senate Bill [SB] 855 and HST funds) for the past four fiscal years, including whether funds were rolled over to the following fiscal year, reallocated, or returned (Tables B and C).

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

3. Evaluation of the level of funding needed for DCFS advocacy contracts, in light of recurring unspent funds across multiple fiscal years.
4. Discussion of potential opportunities to work with DYD to identify ways to utilize these funds to support additional advocacy services beyond the current DCFS-contracted providers and contracts, and a detailed plan for how DCFS plans to spend this year's unspent funds by June 30, 2026, including whether funds can be moved to DYD to provide additional funding to organizations with existing purchase order contracts.

HST and 2011 State Realignment (2011-R) Budget and Expenditures for the Human Trafficking Training Contract

On September 15, 2020, Supervisor Kathryn Barger and former Supervisor Sheila Kuehl passed a motion for the Office of Child Protection and DCFS to conduct an expedited solicitation to vendors with known Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) expertise to provide training to community members, service providers, DCFS, Probation Department (Probation), Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, other departments, other law enforcement agencies, and other external partners as a means of prevention and treatment. The Board motion directed the utilization of a maximum amount of \$1 million from the HST budget for a three-year period.

A three-year contract, with two one-year options to extend, was established with the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) in May 2021. A new Request for Proposals for Human Trafficking Training Services was released in 2025; CAST was selected, and the contract was approved by the Board on April 7, 2026. The total allocated amount for the new Human Trafficking Training contract, starting on May 1, 2026, is \$1,000,000.00. This contract is funded by the following funding resources: SB 794 (\$400,000.00), HST County funds (\$200,000.00), and 2011-R Funds (\$400,000.00).

The HST funds being utilized for the new training contract are carryover HST funds that were not used in the Advocacy Services contracts. The use of HST funds was not a request for additional funding; rather, it was a request for authorization to proceed with the use of existing carryover HST funds as the Board had directed. DCFS determined that existing carryover HST funds would only be used if needed after the other funding sources are fully expended.

Table A provides a summary of the budget, expenditures, remaining balance, and whether the balance was rolled over, reallocated, or returned.

The full Human Trafficking Training Contract was not expended each fiscal year for several reasons. In the first year of the contract, the contractor needed to establish a registration and training platform to capture registrant information, class information, attendance, and training evaluations. In addition, development of trainings and

coordination of the training schedule required start-up time prior to full implementation. In subsequent fiscal years, remaining balances were primarily attributable to unspent training-related costs and other miscellaneous expenses.

Table A HST/State Realignment Budget by Fiscal Year (FY) Human Trafficking Training Contract					
FY	Budget	Funds	Expenditures	Balance	Carryover
FY22-23	\$333,333.00	HST	\$290,209.28	\$43,123.72	Balance returned to Chief Executive Office (CEO)
FY23-24	\$333,333.00	HST	\$331,966.79	\$1,366.21	Balance pending for carryover request
FY24-25	\$301,000.00	2011-R	\$296,512.12	\$4,487.88	Balance returned to CEO
FY25-26	\$301,000.00	2011-R	\$528.15	\$300,471.85	Fiscal year ends June 30, 2026; pending expenditures

HST and SB 855 CSEC Budget and Expenditures for Advocacy Services for Children and Youth Impacted by Commercial Exploitation

Funding for Advocacy Services for Children and Youth Impacted by Commercial Exploitation is comprised of 10 percent HST funds and 90 percent SB 855 funds.

To support counties in their efforts to improve outcomes for minors who are at risk of, or victims of, commercial sexual exploitation, California enacted SB 855 (Chapter 29, Statutes of 2014). SB 855 established the state-funded optional CSEC Program, which requires County Child Welfare Departments that opt into the program to develop and utilize an interagency protocol and multidisciplinary team approach. Funds shall be used for prevention and intervention activities and services, as well as program implementation costs.

Tables B and C summarize the HST and SB 855 budgets for Advocacy Services for the past four fiscal years, including expenditures, carryovers, and whether remaining balances were rolled over, reallocated, or returned.

Because SB 855 funds must be utilized within the fiscal year and HST funds may be carried over, DCFS prioritizes use of SB 855 funds where possible.

The DCFS contracted Advocacy Services agencies, Optimist and Vista Del Mar, do not fully utilize their allocations due to several factors. Approximately 80 percent of each agency's line-item budget is allocated to advocacy hours (e.g., relationship building, case management activities, safety planning, assessments, advocacy planning, transporting

youth, and connecting youth to community-based services). However, agencies claim costs based on hourly rates and are not always able to maximize all available hours. This is primarily due to youth not being available for all scheduled hours, as they may be away from placement or prefer to determine the dosage and frequency of advocacy engagement. Additionally, barriers such as substance use and youth leaving care may impact the ability to consistently provide scheduled services.

DCFS will continue to explore options to maximize services for youth while maintaining service quality and ensuring fiscal stewardship. In doing so, DCFS will work with the contracted agencies, as appropriate, to identify approaches that support effective service delivery and responsible use of funds.

Table B HST Funds Budget by Fiscal Year Advocacy Services for Youth Impacted by Commercial Exploitation				
FY	Budget	Expenditures	Carryover	Balance
FY22-23	\$324,000.00	\$55,757.44	\$170,000.00 carryover for 10/1/23–9/30/24 Advocacy Services contract	\$98,242.56 (Returned to CEO at year end closing in FY22-23)
FY23-24	\$200,000.00	\$14,538.00	\$60,000.00 carryover for HT Training contract starting 5/1/26	\$125,462.00 (Returned to CEO at year-end closing in FY23-24)
FY24-25	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	SB 855 was prioritized; therefore, \$200,000.00 carryover for 10/1/24–9/30/25 for Advocacy contract last term in FY26-27 and HT Training contract starting 5/1/26	N/A
FY25-26	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	Expenditures are pending	Fiscal year ends June 30, 2026

Table C SB 855 Budget by Fiscal Year Advocacy Services for Youth Impacted by Commercial Exploitation				
FY	Budget	Expenditures	Carryover	Variance
FY22-23	\$1,800,000.00	\$1,428,516.40	N/A	\$371,483.60 re-allocated to pay for DCFS Child Trafficking direct service staffing costs
FY23-24	\$1,800,000.00	\$1,082,158.76	N/A	\$717,841.24 re-allocated to pay for DCFS Child Trafficking direct service staffing costs
FY24-25	\$1,800,000.00	\$516,343.08	N/A	\$1,283,656.92 re-allocated to pay for DCFS Child Trafficking direct service staffing costs
FY25-26	\$1,800,000.00	\$397,796.53 (as of Jan. 2026)	N/A	Fiscal year ends June 30, 2026

SB 855 FUNDING AND PROGRAMMATIC COSTS

Based on prior SB 855 expenditures, DCFS will explore reducing the amount allocated for Advocacy Services in FY 2026–27 and reallocating those funds to support child trafficking programmatic services for children and non-minor dependent youth. Reallocating SB 855 funds to DCFS child trafficking program implementation costs is not expected to negatively impact services to youth under the current contract structure and utilization trends.

DCFS programmatic costs average approximately \$7,000,000 annually, based on staffing expenditures over the past three fiscal years (FY22-23, FY23-24, and FY24-25). SB 855 allows the use of funds for programmatic supports, as outlined in California Department of Social Services (CDSS) All County Letter (ACL No. 21-142) (Attachment A).

Programmatic supports provided by the DCFS Dedicated to Restoration, Empowerment, Advocacy, and Mentoring (DREAM) Program include:

- Specialized social workers assigned to the DREAM Program, who carry reduced caseloads to provide intensive services and support to children, youth, and their families impacted by child trafficking.
- Specialized child welfare liaisons assigned to DREAM Court to coordinate and conduct weekly multidisciplinary team meetings.
- Administrative support to manage contracts, Memorandums of Understanding, compliance, data collection, and programming, including youth and parent engagement activities.

- Specialized Runaway Outreach Children's Social Workers who conduct diligent efforts to locate missing children, stabilize them, and connect them to services using a harm reduction approach.

DCFS plans to utilize any remaining balance of SB 855 funds through the end of FY25-26 for the following services:

- Advocacy hours
- Youth Survivor Leadership stipends (Youth Empowerment Committee)
- Youth Empowerment Committee (food, supplies, transportation)
- Parent Empowerment Program (March–May cohort)
- Empowerment events
- DREAM Program staffing costs

Department of Youth Development (DYD)

DCFS met with the DYD to discuss the use of SB 855 funds. As referenced in the March 10, 2026 Board report, DYD requested approximately \$4 million to support human trafficking services, including \$200,000 for training, \$3,000,000 for 25 case managers specializing in this area, and \$640,000 for a consultant contract to manage their new training contracts. It should be noted that since the March 10, 2026 report, DYD has decided to utilize the current DCFS human trafficking training contract with CAST to meet DYD's training needs, as CAST trainings are comprehensive and in alignment with the County's five-year strategic plan. In the March 10, 2026 Board report, DCFS suggested that \$100,000 of unused HST funds designated to the Advocacy contracts be reallocated to the DCFS human trafficking training contract to build capacity to provide additional prevention education workshops at schools and community-based organizations.

DCFS cannot release SB 855 funds to DYD in the current fiscal year because the SB 855 funds allocated to contracted Advocacy Services agencies are encumbered in existing contracts. Releasing any portion of these funds would require a contract amendment, which cannot be completed prior to the end of the fiscal year. Any SB 855 funds not utilized under the CSEC Advocacy agreement will be applied toward the approximately \$7 million in programmatic costs (e.g., Department staffing for CSEC), with any remaining balance (due to insufficient SB 855 funding to cover the full amount) supported by 2011 State Realignment funds.

For the next fiscal year, DCFS will explore collaboration between Advocacy Services contractors and DYD, including partnerships with specialized organizations DYD may contract with in the future. This may include subcontracting arrangements with DYD-selected providers to support services such as internship programs, career readiness, life skills, housing, and shelter-related supports for youth.

Honorable Board of Supervisors

April 22, 2026

Page 7

DCFS anticipates initiating new Advocacy Services contracts in FY 2026–27 and will continue evaluating potential adjustments to service models, including payment structure changes, which may impact overall utilization of allocated funds.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me or Aldo Marin, Board Liaison, at (213) 371-6052.

BTN:JF:DI

LD:BM:ae

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

December 4, 2021

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 21-142

The purpose of the All County Letter is to provide information regarding the allocation methodology for the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Program.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

December 4, 2021

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 21-142

TO: ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL FOSTER CARE MANAGERS
ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES
ALL COUNTY BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN
PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 ALLOCATION
METHODOLOGY AND PROGRAM INFORMATION

REFERENCE: [PUBLIC LAW 113-183](#); [SENATE BILL \(SB\) 855 \(CHAPTER 29, STATUTES OF 2014\)](#); [WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE \(WIC\) SECTION 16524.7](#); [SB 794 \(CHAPTER 425, STATUTES OF 2015\)](#); [WIC SECTION 16501.35](#); [WIC SECTION 16524.6-11](#); [ALL COUNTY LETTER \(ACL\) 16-08: IMPLEMENTATION FEDERAL PREVENTING SEX TRAFFICKING AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ACT](#); [ACL 16-85: STATEWIDE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO PREVENT CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING](#); [ACL 16-15: YOUTH WHO ARE MISSING FROM FOSTER CARE](#); [ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE \(ACIN\) 1-14-19: RECOMMENDED PRACTICES FOR SERVING COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN \(CSEC\) MISSING FROM CARE](#); [COUNTY FISCAL LETTER \(CFL\) 18/19-38: CSEC PROGRAM GENERAL FUND ALLOCATION](#); [CFL 21/22-21: FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 CSEC PROGRAM GENERAL FUND PLANNING ALLOCATION](#)

The purpose of this ACL is to provide all county child welfare and probation agencies (hereafter referred to as “counties”) the allocation methodology for the Fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 CSEC Program, including the federal preventing sex trafficking requirements under Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act. Specifically, this ACL addresses the following:

- Historical context of the CSEC Program
- FY 2021-22 CSEC Program allocation methodology
- Examples of allowable State CSEC Program Expenditures and Federally Required Title IV-E Preventing Sex Trafficking Activities (Attachment I)

BACKGROUND

To support counties in their efforts towards improving outcomes for minors who are at-risk or a victim of commercial sexual exploitation, California enacted [SB 855 \(Chapter 29, Statutes of 2014\)](#). This established the county optional CSEC Program described in [WIC Sections 16524.6-11](#) and administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Annually, the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) and the CDSS collaboratively develop an allocation methodology for the distribution of funding to counties that opt to participate in the state CSEC Program.

After the passage of [SB 855](#), on September 29, 2014, the President signed into law the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act ([Public Law 113-183](#)), which amended Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to require states to develop and implement policies and procedures related to commercially sexually exploited youth, and runaway or missing children, and youth who receive child welfare services. This federal law was codified into state law in 2015 via [SB 794](#) through the addition of [WIC Section 16501.35](#), requiring all child welfare and probation departments to identify, document, and determine appropriate services when serving youth who are at risk for, or identified as victims of, commercial sexual exploitation. In addition, [SB 794](#) required counties to implement policies and procedures related to expeditiously locating children and youth missing from care. The CDSS provided initial instructions to counties regarding the preventing child sex trafficking requirements in [ACL 16-08](#), statewide policies and procedures to prevent child sex trafficking in [ACL 16-85](#), and provided initial instructions regarding the runaway/missing youth protocol in [ACL 16-15](#). Additionally, [ACIN I-14-19](#) highlights best practices for serving youth who have experienced exploitation, such as guidance on reporting procedures, engagement for youth during and post runaway, prevention guidance, and safety planning for future incidents of running. All county child welfare and probation agencies receive an annual allocation to perform these federally required activities.

ALLOWABLE STATE PROGRAM EXPENDITURES AND FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

In an effort to help support flexible expenditure planning relative to annual allocations for the county opt-in CSEC program and SB 855, the Child Trafficking Response Unit (CTRU) put together federally required Title IV-E preventing sex trafficking activities, the CDSS has developed the attached

document. The attachment is meant to provide child welfare agencies and probation departments examples of allowable expenditures and activities relative to the associated funding source and program requirements.

**FUNDING DISTRIBUTION for the STATE CSEC PROGRAM [SB 855
(CHAPTER 29, STATUTES OF 2014) - OPT-IN COUNTIES]**

In consultation with the CWDA, \$15.9 million General Fund (GF) is distributed to County Welfare Departments (CWDs) that have opted to participate in the state CSEC Program established by [WIC Section 16524.7](#) using the following methodology:

- \$16.2 million GF is preliminarily allocated based on each previously opt-in (hereinafter referred to as “continuing”) county’s percentage of the total statewide FY 2018-19 state CSEC allocation, as displayed in [CFL No. 18/19-38](#).
- From the preliminary calculation, a reduction of \$325,760 is distributed across all continuing counties for the implementation of county training, technical assistance, and cross-county coordination through the Preventing and Addressing Child Trafficking Project based on each continuing county’s point-in-time FY 2020-21 state CSEC allocation balance as of August 2021. Continuing counties with point-in-time surplus balances contribute 2.39 percent of their preliminary allocation; continuing counties with point-in-time deficit balances contribute 1.0 percent of their preliminary allocation.
- An adjustment is made to ensure counties receive no less than \$25,000 GF [CFL 18/19-38](#).

Further information regarding the allocation methodology and claiming information can be referenced in the FY 2021-22 CSEC Program GF planning allocation, [CFL No. 21/22-21](#).

**FEDERAL PREVENTING SEX TRAFFICKING REQUIREMENTS [SB 794
(CHAPTER 425, STATUTES OF 2015) - ALL COUNTIES]**

In consultation with the CWDA, \$678,800 GF is distributed to CWDs using the following methodology:

- Each county’s percentage of the total statewide foster care caseload, ages ten through 20 years, based on 2021 second-quarter data from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project on the University of California (UC), Berkeley website.
- To ensure all counties implement the federally mandated activities, a minimum floor of \$2,500 GF was provided.

In consultation with the Chief Probation Officers of California, \$1.0 million GF is distributed to County Probation Departments using the following methodology:

- Each county's percentage of the combined total statewide foster care caseload, ages ten through 20 years, based on 2021 second-quarter data from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project from the UC Berkeley website and candidacy caseload as reported by counties to CDSS.
- To ensure all counties implement the federally mandated activities, a minimum floor of \$2,500 GF is provided.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the CTRU within the Child Welfare Policy and Program Development Bureau at (916) 651-6160 or at CSECPprogram@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

ANGIE SCHWARTZ
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division
Attachment

c: County Welfare Directors Association
Chief Probation Officers of California

State CSEC Program Expenditures and Federally Required Title IV-E Preventing Sex Trafficking Activities

Comparison of State CSEC Program Funding and Federal/State Funding for the Title IV-E Preventing Sex Trafficking Activities

All California counties are allocated funds to assist in the identification, documentation, determination of appropriate services, and efforts to expeditiously locate children and youth receiving child welfare services who are at risk for, or have experienced commercial sexual exploitation, as required by changes made in 2015 to Title IV-E of the Social Security Act by the [Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act \(PL 113-183\)](#). Counties that elect to participate in the optional state CSEC Program are provided additional state funding to support activities established by Senate Bill (SB) 855 (Chapter 29, Statutes of 2014), and codified at [Welfare & Institutions Code Sections 16524.6 through 16524.11](#).

SB 855

Opt-in State Funding to Serve Children who have Experienced, or are at Risk of, Commercial Sexual Exploitation

SB 855 established the state funded optional CSEC Program, which requires County Child Welfare Departments (CWDs) who opt into the CSEC Program to develop and utilize an interagency protocol and multi-disciplinary team approach to serve children who are at risk for, or a victim of, Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Funds allocated under the state CSEC Program may not supplant funds for existing programs. Funds shall be used for prevention and intervention activities and services for children who have experienced, or are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation, and program implementation costs.

EXAMPLES OF ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY:



Prevention Services

- Awareness education for foster children to help recognize and avoid commercial sexual exploitation



Mental Health:

- Specialized counseling services not otherwise covered by Medi-Cal or other sources
- Culturally appropriate therapeutic services
- Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)
- Animal-Assisted Therapies
- Creative Arts Therapies
- Movement-Focused Therapies
- Holistic therapeutic activities i.e. yoga, dance, etc.



Home/Placement Supports

- Supplemental foster care payments for increased care and supervision needs
- Bed holds beyond the 14-day allowable hold time
- Video recording doorbell systems
- Caregiver support groups
- Alarm system installation and subscription
- Transportation to support changes in placements
- Contract with local Foster Family Agency (FFA) for specialized home finding



Service Contracts

- Drop-in centers
- Survivor advocates
- Counseling services not otherwise covered by Medi-Cal or other sources
- Support groups
- Life skills classes
- Safety planning
- Transportation vouchers
- Emergency supplies
- Workshops
- Emergency housing for youth between placements
- Mental health, substance use, or other case management services not otherwise covered by Medi-Cal or other sources
- Reproductive health education and services



Direct Support for Children:

- Basic needs (clothes, food, shelter, culturally specific hygiene supplies and personal care products)
- Gift cards or other motivation incentives for specialized services and supports for youth
- Personal care services to meet youth identified needs (hair, nails, lash extensions, waxing etc.)
- Phone bill, phone data plans, phone minutes
- Tattoo/scar removal
- Transportation (beyond what is already required) for the youth to participate in additional services and supportive activities
- Child care



Education

- Incentive payments to support educational opportunities
- Life-skills training
- Expectant and/or parenting classes
- Tuition
- GED, SAT, or other test preparation courses
- Develop or purchase school-based prevention curriculum for students, parents, and faculty
- Contracted work to strengthen the support provided by school resource officers, district foster youth liaisons, etc.
- Tutoring
- Supplies/equipment needed to support virtual learning environments



Programmatic Support:

- Specialized staff with reduced caseloads
- Specialized child welfare liaisons with focuses including, but not limited to law enforcement, education, locating children or youth absent from foster care, etc.
- Creating coordinated response protocol among multidisciplinary partners
- Establish a specific phone line for partners and law enforcement to contact 24/7 should a missing foster child or youth be recovered and/or identified
- Create specialized wraparound teams
- Coordination with homeless youth shelters and other service providers
- Engaging survivors for program support and technical assistance
- Survivor advocates
- Parent advocates
- Targeted caregiver recruitment
- 24-hour crisis response team

Statewide Funding for Fulfilling the Federal Preventing Sex Trafficking Requirements

SB 794 codified the federal mandates under the Title IV-E program outlined in the [Preventing](#)

[Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act \(PL SB 113-](#)

[183\)](#) requiring child welfare and probation departments to identify, document, and determine appropriate services

for youth receiving child welfare services who are at risk for, or a victim of, CSE, as well as implement protocols to expeditiously locate children and youth missing from care. All Child Welfare and Probation Departments receive an annual allocation to perform these Title IV-E administrative activities required by federal law.

**SB
794**

EXAMPLES

Developing and implementing policies and procedures for identifying, documenting, and determining appropriate services for children and youth receiving child welfare services who are victims or at risk of sex trafficking. This includes, but is not limited to:

Screening Protocols, Tools and Materials

Developing protocols, tools, and materials for screening children and youth who may be victims, or at risk of, commercial sexual exploitation.

County Wide/Regional Steering Committees

Participation in a county wide or regional steering committees, county wide or regional coordinated response, and convening workgroups on identification and response.

Locating, Responding and Screening

Developing and implementing specific protocols for expeditiously locating and responding to children and youth who run away from foster care, including screening children and youth for CSE.

Crisis Response Team Protocol

Administrative activities associated with development of a crisis response team protocol to identify and determine appropriate services for children and youth.

Developing MOUs

Developing MOUs with agencies/providers for the purpose of identifying foster children and youth missing from care, and implementing policies and procedures for identifying, documenting, and determining services for children and youth who are victims or at risk of CSE.

Probation and Child Welfare Protocols

Protocol development between probation and child welfare agencies to report any instance of CSE when a child or youth receiving child welfare services is identified as a victim.

Law Enforcement Reports

Reporting to law enforcement any instance of CSE when a child or youth receiving child welfare services is identified as a victim.

NCIC & NCMEC Reports

Reporting to the appropriate law enforcement authority when a child or youth receiving child welfare services, who is reasonably believed to be the victim or at risk of CSE, is missing or abducted, for entry into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), and reporting the child to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

CWS/CMS Documentation

Documenting in the Child Welfare System/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) when a child or youth is receiving child welfare services and is a victim or at risk of CSE.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY – DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2501



GUILLERMO VIERA ROSA
Chief Probation Officer

May 21, 2026

TO: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Chair Pro Tem
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM:  for
Guillermo Viera Rosa
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **REPORT BACK- SUPPORTING PROBATION AND FOSTER YOUTH
IMPACTED BY TRAFFICKING WITH COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORTS
(ITEM NO. 22, AGENDA OF APRIL 7, 2026)**

On April 7, 2026, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Probation Officer, in collaboration with the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Department of Youth Development (DYD) to report back at 15, 30, 60, and 90 days.

This report provides Probation's 30-day report-back information, as directed and summarized below:

1. A detailed plan for the assessment of all 38 youth who have not had an arrest in over one year, including deidentified information detailing: the youth's most recent felony arrest; the community advocacy services each youth is currently receiving; and any efforts made by the Deputy Probation Officer (DPO), the youth's attorney, and the District Attorney to recommend termination of the youth's probation case to the court. If the recommendation is for the youth to remain on probation, Probation should outline the specific barriers or considerations preventing termination.

- a. For youth who are currently detained, Probation should provide information on Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) efforts being made to support the youth's release, including anticipated timeframes. Probation should also identify the number of detained youth currently receiving services from community advocacy agencies, including which agency is engaged with the youth and family to prepare for the youth's return home. Emphasis should be placed on identifying safe, least restrictive alternatives to detention while ensuring service engagement begins prior to release.
 - b. For youth who cannot return home due to safety concerns, Probation should provide information on efforts being made in collaboration with DCFS to transfer jurisdiction upon the youth's release from detention or custody programs, with the goal of consolidating care within the least restrictive, most supportive setting.
2. Information on the current process for referring justice-involved youth from Probation to service providers, including community advocacy agencies, and a plan to expedite and improve access for future referrals to services that incorporate Probation's staffing challenges and the capacities of other stakeholders. This should include coordinated plan for engagement with parents and caregivers by Probation, DCFS, DYD and advocacy agencies to help prepare families for the youth's return home and connection to services after release, as well as for youth who are already identified and living in the community. Additionally, this report should detail the scope of parent and caregiver advocacy services.

PROBATION STAFFING UPDATE

Please note the following staffing update to Probation's Staffing of the Child Trafficking Unit (CTU):

Category	Total Count	SDPO	DPO	Probation Assistant
Total allocated positions	7	1	6	0
Filled Positions	8	1	6	1
Vacant Positions	0	0	0	0

ASSESSMENT PLAN OF THE 38 YOUTH WHO HAVE NOT HAD AN ARREST IN OVER A YEAR.

Probation completed a preliminary assessment of the 38-youth identified as commercially sexually exploited youth, having no new arrest in over a year after the Board's motion

above, to determine what would be the best plan to move forward with the more detailed assessment the Board requested. During the preliminary assessment, Probation gathered the following information:

Please note, all information is current as of May 7, 2026.

	Arrest Level for Most Recent Arrest	# of Cases Terminated	# of Youth with a Subsequent Arrest
# of Youth with Felony Arrests	31	4	1
# of Youth with Misdemeanor Arrests	7	2	0

Thirty-eight (38) youth identified as CSEC per the last report.

Thirty-one (31) arrests were identified as a felony; the remaining were identified as misdemeanors.

Six (6) cases have been terminated since the last report on March 10, 2026.

Of the remaining thirty-two (32):

Six (6) cases have a current Camp Community Placement order, and their cases will be discussed below.

Five (5) cases are currently out of supervision and have an active Warrant from Court.

Three (3) cases currently have Court Proceedings suspended pending

Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) Remediation Services

Two (2) cases are pending disposition. In these cases, although arrests occurred one or more years ago, youth run away has prevented these cases from receiving any court determination/disposition.

Of the remaining 16 cases:

Four (4) have current Dual Status with DCFS. Of these cases one (1) is placed out of state under Education Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) and three (3) are placed at Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs) with DCFS as the lead agency. All three (3) of these youth continue to struggle

with daily behaviors which have included, refusing services, refusing to attend school, and leaving STRTP without permission. One of these youth is also pending a new violation hearing in court after being out of supervision for almost seven (7) months.

Five (5) have a Suitable Placement order with no DCFS involvement. Of these five, one (1) is currently detained pending re-placement. One (1) is currently transitioning into an Independent Living Program (ILP), one (1) is currently receiving Family Reunification services with Mother, one (1) is a parent, receiving services through specialized placement and does not desire to return home, and one (1) was only recently released from Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC), and is stabilizing in their current open STRTP.

Seven (7) have a Home on Probation order with no DCFS involvement. Of these youth, one (1) incurred a new arrest; one (1) is pending a violation hearing after being uncooperative with court orders, including participation in Wraparound services, curfew, and following parents' directions, five (5) are currently involved in Wraparound services.

It should be noted that although the youth assessed were arrested one or more years ago, in 8 of the 16 cases above, the youth had one or more periods of extended runaway/out of supervision episodes which significantly delayed either, or sometimes both the court's disposition, and probation oversight of

compliance with court orders and service delivery. In the remaining cases, even without a runaway/out of supervision episode, cases received a disposition, weeks, if not months after the petition was filed in court. In only five (5) of the 16 cases Probation has provided active supervision for more than one (1) year, a year which may have also included time spent in detention such as Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC) or Camp.

After the preliminary assessment of the thirty-two (32) cases, each case had a unique and often complex set of circumstances in which either the youth and/or family needed continued support with counseling, education and behavior.

Probation will continue to review on a case-by-case basis and engage court partners to assist when further assessment could provide a swifter resolution to case, in addition to working with DCFS, DYD and Community Based Organizations (CBO), to explore continued services and support available to youth who no longer require probation oversight.

Detained Youth

For the six (6) youth currently detained on Camp orders, there is a Multi-Disciplinary (MDT) process in place. Dependent on the youth's court ordered camp program, at approximately 45 days prior to the projected release date, a transitional MDT will be completed by the assigned Camp Deputy Probation Officer (DPO), which includes representatives from County partners, such as LACOE and DMH, but interested parties such as DCFS (if Dual Status), parents/guardians (if available and appropriate), and supporting adults (which may include mentors, advocates, and educators). Probation, parents/guardians, and partner agencies have always taken the youth's safety into account when identifying the appropriate least restrictive placement. It has been a long-standing Camp Community Transition practice that transition begins at the time of camp placement and the DPO continues to work as the primary advocate ensure the youth receives the services needed for successful reintegration into the community after their camp program. The DPO facilitates family visits to support this effort and if family is not an option upon release, will work to identify an appropriate alternative.

The breakdown of the six (6) youth with Camp Orders is as follows:

Four (4) youth had CCP orders in February 2026; three (3) received 5–7-month camp orders, one (1) received a 7–9-month camp order. The projected release in three of the cases is July 2026 and the transitional MDT would likely take place in mid-May- assuming their behavior at CVK has been satisfactory.

The remaining case would have a projected release date in September 2026, which the transitional MDT occurring in mid-late July.

There are an additional three (3) youth detained as of May 1, 2026. One (1) of these youth are currently going through Competency Hearings; one (1) is pending screenings/interviews from STRTPs and is considered Hard to Place due to multiple runaway and mental health episodes. The remaining youth has already been ordered back to open suitable placement and is pending release. In this case a Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting is pending once the youth has been accepted into a placement facility.

At this time, the advocacy agencies contracted with DYD are pending final approval for admittance to enter the CVK facility. ZOE and Saving Innocence have nearly completed the process. Once they are cleared to enter CVK, they will be able to make connections and coordinate advocacy services upon release. As a supporting adult, they will be invited to participate in the MDT process.

For youth who have current DCFS involvement, the DCFS CSW is part of the transition process from the onset of the camp order and is part of the MDT process (note the youth's

dependency attorney is also part of this process). Both departments explore available placement options and discuss potential barriers to any placements considered. DCFS and Probation have many of the same placement options within the County and will utilize the expertise of the DPO, CSW and other County partners, parents/guardians and supporting adults to determine which agency will take the lead upon release from detention and provide constant monitoring for indicators when less restrictive care is appropriate.

Transfer Jurisdiction for Youth who Cannot Return Home

For youth who are unable to return home due to safety concerns, Probation attempts to identify these issues early into the Camp Program to prepare for the appropriate alternative. This often includes suitable placement and/or transitional living. If the absence of the caregiver is due to neglect, abuse or other reason is identified, there is a court process in place to request a Reverse 241.1 WIC Hearing. This hearing is held in Dependency court to assess the circumstances and need for intervention. Probation is also able to provide foster care services comparable to DCFS and will often take the lead during the vulnerable time after release.

In addition, Probation will work with both DCFS and DYD to further assess whether additional community-based and advocacy supports may benefit youth, especially in achieving safe release for those who are detained.

CURRENT PROCESS FOR REFERRING YOUTH FROM PROBATION

Probation has enhanced the unit to ensure continuity of services and referrals. The unit consists of a Probation Director, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, two Deputy Probation Officers, four (4) Probation Assistants, and a dedicated Program Analyst and clerk.

Probation's process for referring justice involved youth to service providers is through the Prospective Authorization and Utilization Review (PAUR) unit. When a DPO determines a need for Wraparound or Functional Family Therapy, they will use the existing referral and send it to PAUR, who will send the youth/family information to the appropriate community-based agency (CBO) based on need and location. The CBO will, then contact the youth/family. Two pathways have been identified to refer Probation youth and families impacted by trafficking to community-based supports: DYD, and DCFS' Parent Empowerment Program, and these are described below.

DYD Referral Process

DYD partners closely with community-based providers to work with and support youth through a continuum of care-first initiatives from prevention and early intervention to diversion and intervention for justice system-involved youth.

Since late 2024, DYD has managed 4 advocacy agencies on Probation's behalf until June 2026 when the purchase orders may transition back to Probation. These advocacy agencies are already connected to Probation's referral system.

DYD is exploring additional opportunities to refer youth impacted by trafficking from Probation to its community providers, including different pathways depending on youth needs and circumstances, with a goal to prioritize and expedite referrals for youth impacted by trafficking. These providers currently have limited capacity to take on referrals. Current opportunities include the Reentry Action for Youth (RAY) program, and Safe Healing Centers which are designed to support youth returning to community from incarceration, which can support a limited number of youth with intensive needs.

RAY prioritizes youth who may be released from or avoid incarceration through program participation, as well as all girls and gender expansive youth. This focus population includes high rates of trafficked youth. RAY is currently working to expand its capacity to serve greater numbers of youth. DYD is also working to establish a referral pathway to RAY for youth who are residing in STRTP's. This will ensure that youth in residential placements, which include a high prevalence of trafficked youth, are better supported before returning to their homes.

Additionally, DYD is preparing to pilot a program with Probation to receive WIC 654 referrals, which will allow youth under Probation supervision to participate in diversion services in lieu of formal case filing with the District Attorney. These referrals may also include youth with trafficking backgrounds. Through trauma-informed and restorative approaches, DYD's Diversion Program provides supportive, non-punitive interventions that address underlying needs while promoting safety, stability, and long-term well-being.

Future opportunities include DYD's planned Youth Development Network (YDN) Care Coordination providers, which will launch in early 2027 and can support youth who need system navigation, peer mentoring, and enrichment programs. However, these providers currently don't have expertise related to child trafficking. Additionally, as proposed in the March 10, 2026, report back related to the motion, SUPPORTING PROBATION AND FOSTER YOUTH IMPACTED BY HUMAN

TRAFFICKING WITH COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORTS, DYD proposed building its capacity to support youth impacted by trafficking and referred by Probation and DCFS systems by training providers across its continuum of services, embedding case managers with trafficking expertise, and working with a consultant to coordinate.

Existing Probation and DCFS referral systems and protocols will need to be adapted to integrate DYD providers. Probation and DCFS use a CSEC tracking systems database for referrals, case plans, and approvals. Additionally, Probation and DCFS' First Responders Crisis Response protocol for trafficked youth can be adapted to refer youth to DYD providers for additional short-term or long-term supports. The departments can work together to develop temporary, secure referral mechanisms while platform integration is in process, and an MOU is finalized to support data sharing and coordination.

DYD's referral systems are currently being enhanced as the department is in process of transitioning providers to the Apricot case management platform for various services. RAY providers are currently in the system and Diversion providers will be in the system in the next couple of months. DYD will have the ability to integrate referrals from Probation and DCFS into Apricot. While most referrals will flow from DCFS or Probation to DYD providers, there may be occasions when DYD is serving a system-involved youth that they identify as impacted by trafficking. DYD will notify the appropriate department, for coordinated case planning, or if needed to refer them to providers or other services that must be initiated by Probation or DCFS.

DYD is also in process of evaluating the current service providers to determine their capacity to build services for families of youth impacted by trafficking. DYD's services are primarily youth-focused on their design, however DYD recognizes the need for holistic support for youth that may include support for family members.

Some DYD providers do provide wraparound services for youth. DYD will continue to explore whether it makes sense to expand its program design to serve family members for care coordination, diversion, and reentry services, or if it makes better sense to build partnerships with other county departments that provide this support. Currently, it makes sense for DYD to partner with programs like DCFS' Parent Empowerment Program, described below, while more substantial wraparound supports are identified and resourced for families and caregivers. DYD will provide further information by the next report out.

DCFS Parent Empowerment Program

In June 2018, DCFS led the launch of the Parent Empowerment Program (PEP) in collaboration with DMH and Probation. The program was developed to provide support and education to parents and caregivers caring for children and youth impacted by Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE). PEP is comprised of ten sessions and equips parents and primary caregivers with information to increase their understanding of what CSE is, the dynamics of trafficking, how and why children and youth may become victims of CSE; the tactics exploiters use to manipulate and control their victims, the impact of exploitation on children and their families, barriers to leaving the exploitive situation, and ways to connect with and support their children towards healing and recovery. Currently, the Advocacy Services agencies that contract with DCFS are required to implement PEP as a component of the Advocacy Services program. In addition, the Department of Mental Health and a DCFS Parent Partner also provide PEP in Spanish. Since LA County launched PEP on June 8, 2018, there have been 411 parent participants among the 39 PEP cohorts. PEP classes continue to be facilitated by a clinician and a Parent Advocate or Survivor Advocate. Parents continue to report in their evaluation surveys that they find the classes to be valuable and have a greater understanding of their child's needs, and how to better care for and love their child through the traumatic experience while working towards building resiliency for themselves and their child.

As part of the PEP program, the Advocacy agencies also provide parent advocacy services to parents to help connect parents to services and support they need, including having the opportunity to spend time together outside of the PEP program during parent outings, as parents find peer support valuable and positive for their own well-being.

To expand the PEP, the Department of Mental Health is developing a prevention curriculum and preparing for broader community implementation.

Current efforts are centered on refining both the prevention-focused curriculum and the intervention curriculum that is currently being implemented. Updates incorporate feedback gathered from facilitators, community partners, and parent participants, ensuring the curriculum is practical, culturally responsive, and aligned with real-world needs. In addition, the updated curriculum is being translated into both English and Spanish to increase accessibility and reach across diverse communities.

Looking ahead, a key priority for Fall, 2026, is the launch of a Train-the-Trainer model, which will equip community partner agencies to independently facilitate the PEP curriculum within their own parent groups. This expansion strategy is intended to increase sustainability and broaden impact across both system-involved and non-system-involved populations.

Through these efforts, PEP continues to strengthen its dual focus on prevention and intervention, ensuring parents and caregivers are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and support needed to protect and advocate for their children.

If you have any questions, please contact Chief Deputy Robert Arcos at (213) 305-4707 or Robert.Arcos@probation.lacounty.gov.

GVR:RA:SW:GA:sl

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June 8, 2026

TO: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM:  Brandon T. Nichols
Director

REPORT BACK REGARDING THE APRIL 7, 2026, BOARD MOTION (ITEM NO. 22) STRENGTHENING SERVICES AND ALIGNING RESOURCES FOR PROBATION AND FOSTER YOUTH IMPACTED BY HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On April 7, 2026, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Probation Officer, the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and the Los Angeles County Department of Youth Development (DYD) to report back at intervals of 15, 30, 60, and 90 days regarding efforts to improve outcomes for youth with trafficking related concerns. As part of this directive, the Board specifically instructed DCFS to submit a written report within 60 days describing the strategies being implemented to reduce placement instability among impacted youth and the methods used to evaluate housing stability interventions.

Placement stability is a critical component of the well-being of children and youth in foster care, as stable housing is associated with improved mental health, educational achievement, permanency, and overall development. This report serves as DCFS' 60-day report back to the Board and outlines the administrative and qualitative case review data used to assess placement stability and related outcomes involving safety, permanency, and well-being. The report also describes the strategies DCFS is implementing to strengthen placement stability, reduce placement disruptions among youth with trafficking-related concerns, and evaluate the effectiveness of housing stability interventions.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Placement decisions are based on an individual child's needs and preferences and are matched with available placement options that best fit those needs. DCFS has various placement levels, including family-based placements with relatives, non-related extended family members, foster homes, and Foster Family Agency (FFA) homes, some of which are licensed to provide specialized intensive treatment programs such as Intensive Services Foster Care, a program model designed to serve youth who have experienced complex trauma and demonstrate severe emotional and behavioral challenges.

In addition, Group Homes, Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs), and Community Treatment Facilities are utilized when family-based foster care settings are unable to meet the needs of the child or youth. Los Angeles County has two STRTPs that serve exploited youth specifically.

Additionally, Olive Crest, in collaboration with the Give Mentor Love Foundation, established a new Transitional Housing Program for youth 18 to 21 years of age.

Currently, 448 commercially exploited youth have been identified in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System. Table 1 presents their housing status as of April 22, 2026. As shown, 27.2 percent are living at home with a parent and 4.5 percent are living with a legal guardian, for a combined 31.7 percent living in a parent or guardian home. A similar share, 31.5 percent are in family-based foster care settings, including 17.4 percent living with a FFA foster parent, and 14.1 percent living with a nonrelative resource parent. In addition, 16.7 percent are in a Supervised Independent Living Program. Smaller proportions are in congregate care (8.3 percent), with a relative resource parent (5.4 percent), in a non-foster care placement (5.1 percent), or in a court-specified home (1.3 percent).

Table 1.

Housing Status for Exploited Youth Receiving DCFS Support Point-in-Time Data as of April 22, 2026		
Housing Type	Number of Youth	Percentage
Living at Home with Parent(s)	122	27.2%
Living with Legal Guardian	20	4.5%
Living with FFA Foster Parent	78	17.4%
Supervised Independent Living Program	75	16.7%
Living with a Nonrelative Resource Parent	63	14.1%
STRTP/Congregate Care	37	8.3%
Living with a Relative Resource Parent	24	5.4%

Non-foster care placement (i.e., transitional shelter, psychiatric hospital, substance use treatment program)	23	5.1%
Court-Specified Home	6	1.3%

Measuring Placement Stability

DCFS tracks and monitors placement stability through administrative data review and case reviews.

The Placement Stability measure is a federal outcome measure that asks: Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period, what is the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days in foster care?

The national standard for this measure is less than or equal to 4.48 moves per 1,000 days. Overall, DCFS performs better than the national standard at approximately 3 moves per 1,000 days. For commercially exploited youth specifically, the outcome was 5.29 moves per 1,000 days for calendar year 2024. For calendar year 2025, it declined to 3.99 moves per 1,000 days. Table 2 shows placement moves by DCFS regional office and program. It indicates that youth in the specialized child trafficking program have the highest number of placement moves per 1,000 days compared with other DCFS offices and programs; however, this outcome is still better than the national performance standard.

Table 2.

4-P5 Placement Stability Placement moves per 1,000 days National Performance: ≤ 4.48 per 1,000 days.		
Office/Specialized Program	JAN2024-DEC2024 per 1,000 days	JAN2025-DEC2025 per 1,000 days
DREAM (Child Trafficking)	5.29	3.99
Belvedere	2.46	2.28
Brand	3.01	3.51
Compton-Carson	2.78	3.98
Glendora	2.42	2.98
Hawthorne	3.44	2.83
Lancaster	2.03	3.61
Metro North	2.93	3.13
Palmdale	2.81	2.68

Pomona	4.32	3.27
San Gabriel Valley	2.15	2.76
Santa Clarita	1.25	1.98
Santa Fe Springs	3.42	2.69
South County	2.32	3.64
Torrance	2.43	2.90
Van Nuys	2.66	2.52
Vermont Corridor	2.55	2.92
Wateridge	2.61	2.93
West Los Angeles	3.62	2.84
West SF Valley	2.21	2.91
Medical & ASFA	0.85	2.12
American Indian	0.00	0.00
Asian Pacific Project	3.91	3.43
Deaf Services	6.56	0.00

Webster, D., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Wiegmann, W., Saika, G., Courtney, M., Eastman, A.L., Gomez, A., Guo, S., Dua, A., McGowan, H., Sanghani, H., Berwick, H., Lu, F., Hoerl, C., Ensele, P., Nevin, J., & Michel, J. (2026)

Continuous Quality Improvement Case Reviews

The Dedicated to Restoration, Empowerment, Advocacy and Mentoring (DREAM) Program collaborated with the DCFS Continuous Quality & System Improvement Division (CQSID) to conduct comprehensive quantitative and qualitative reviews to support practice improvement. Forty-two case reviews for children and youth receiving specialized services were completed by CQSID and presented to the DREAM staff and management in May 2024. The reviews identified opportunities to strengthen documentation of statements and increase parent engagement, including engagement with fathers. Since the case reviews, training on Advanced Harm Reduction Strategies and Motivational Interviewing have been provided through the training contract with the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST). In addition, DCFS is implementing plans to launch mandatory Motivational Interviewing training for staff.

DREAM conducts a monthly review of one case in addition to administrative data reviews. However, the team has not had a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) analyst since June 2025 to analyze and report on trends identified through the case review process. On May 20, 2026, a new CQI analyst joined the team and will lead future reviews and analyses in collaboration with staff, including facilitating monthly discussions focused on practice improvement.

The ongoing collection, monitoring, and reporting of quantitative and qualitative data will continue under the direction of the newly appointed CQI analyst. The analyst will work closely with staff to review findings, identify trends, and support the implementation of interventions aimed at continuously improving programming, processes, and practice.

Permanency and placement stability are among the areas evaluated during the CQI case review process. Areas of strength include strong multidisciplinary teaming and regular timely Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings, which are critical to stabilizing youth and ensuring that they have the opportunity to receive interventions that support healing and recovery. The reviews highlighted the efforts made by social workers to connect youth to mental health services and substance use disorder treatment, two factors that are often barriers to stability for some youth because they may not yet be ready to engage consistently in formalized services. Regular consultations occurred with public health nurses, supervisors for clinical guidance and support, education providers, and other CFT members involved in the child's life.

Other strong efforts made by Children's Social Workers (CSWs) included connecting youth to transitional housing, the Department of Public Social Services, and special education supports. Another strength identified was the DREAM staff's consistency in conducting multidisciplinary team meetings to ensure all efforts were being made to foster stability and well-being.

The primary barriers to placement stability were trauma-related emotional and psychological symptoms that affected the child's ability to engage consistently at school, in the home, and in placement. In addition, some youth were not ready to participate in formal services, such as mental health or substance use treatment, or did not engage consistently enough to benefit from those interventions.

Placement Stability Strategies

Successfully meeting the needs of high-acuity youth requires a multifaceted and coordinated team approach involving service providers, caregivers, and stakeholders as well as attention to the style of engagement to which the youth is most responsive. Key services, support, and practices that support placement stability include:

1. Leadership, Engagement, and Teamwork

The most impactful strategy to support placement stability has been collaborative leadership by the CSW and the development of teamwork around supporting the caregiver so that they do not feel alone in the effort to provide care for the child. The CSW's leadership and support in building teamwork among CFT members is critical to achieving placement stability. Ensuring CFT coordination and communication as well as shared responsibilities, are important elements in achieving stability. When caregivers feel supported and part of a team, and are given the resources to mitigate challenges, they are much more likely to continue working with the youth.

2. Placement Preservation Strategies

When a child or youth is at risk of a placement disruption, efforts are made to avoid unnecessary placement changes by requiring a CFT meeting to develop, enhance, or implement placement preservation strategies before a foster care provider requests removal of the youth. Discussing and implementing placement preservation strategies within the CFT context is a required process to support, equip, and wrap the child or youth and caregiver with resources in pursuit of stability. The ideal preservation strategy is solution-focused, restorative in nature, and trauma-informed. It is also focused on the resources, training, and services needed to achieve stability. DCFS policy on best practices when implementing placement preservation strategies includes, but is not limited to:

- An appropriate age approach centered on the strengths and positive attributes of the child or youth and family;
- Detailed steps and actions to best support and stabilize the existing placement;
- A plan with action-oriented tasks when coordinating services and supports for the youth and resource family in a timely manner; and/or
- Strategies that align with the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths assessment, case plan, and any action plans developed by the CFT.

3. The Placement Stabilization Team

The Placement Stabilization Team (PST) is an important strategy for stabilizing youth. PST CSWs engage with youth, caregivers, and non-minor dependents. PST provides services to the Department's dependent youth with the highest level of need, who often have experienced multiple placement disruptions or changes. These services are carried out by building positive rapport, practicing honesty, actively listening, being culturally sensitive, facilitating dialogue to gather information, and promoting shared understanding of the barriers and obstacles that can prevent a placement from remaining stable.

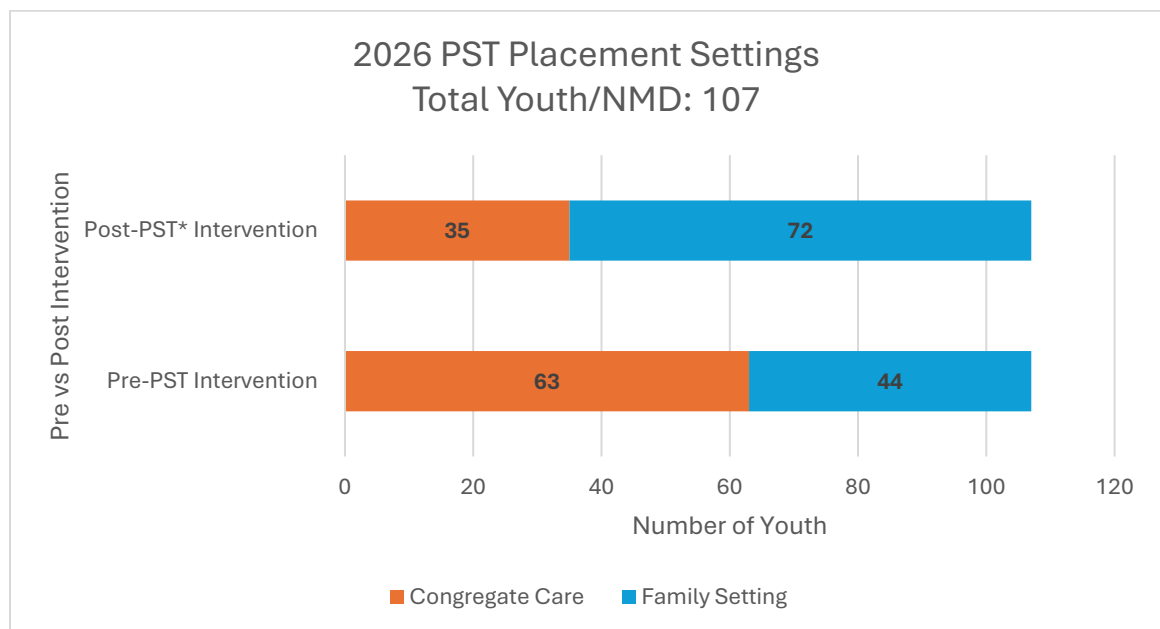
The PST CSW provides linkage, supportive services, and referrals to mental health and other support services, while assisting families in identifying formal or informal extended supports and providing coaching to minimize stressors. PST CSWs do not carry cases; however, they collaborate with existing DCFS CSWs, the Department of Mental Health, peer partners, community service providers, and other professionals who support the youth. PST CSWs and Supervising CSWs work a non-traditional schedule that includes 24-hour availability for crisis intervention, whether by telephone or in person, including evenings, weekends, and holidays.

The PST served a total of 107 youth (91 youth and 16 non-minor dependents) as of May 22, 2026. PST social workers connect with youth and non-minor

dependents prior to accepting services and build a rapport. Once the youth or non-minor dependent and the regional office accept the services, PST works diligently with them and the entire support team, including family, caregivers, and the mental health team.

Graph 1 shows placement outcomes for the 107 youth and non-minor dependents served by PST. As shown, congregate care placements decreased from 63, prior to PST intervention, to 35 following intervention, a reduction of approximately 44 percent. Over the same period, family-setting placements increased from 44 to 72, an increase of approximately 63 percent. For purposes of this analysis, family settings include Home of Parent, Resource Family Homes, and Transitional Housing Programs/Independent Living Programs. In addition, five youth were reunified with a parent.

Graph 1.



4. Runaway Outreach Unit

Runaway Outreach Unit (ROU) social workers are assigned to youth who have a protective custody warrant because they are away or missing from care. ROU serves as a secondary assignment that supports the primary CSW in making diligent efforts to locate youth and provide support to stabilize them at home or in placement. ROU tracks outcomes for youth who are no longer receiving ROU services. In 2024, 245 youths exited the ROU program, and in 2025, 214 exited services.

Tables 3 and 4 summarize outcomes for youth whose ROU cases were closed in calendar years 2024 and 2025. In 2024, 44.5 percent of exiting youth were stabilized in DCFS care, 7.3 percent were stabilized in the home of a parent, and 8.6 percent were stabilized in relative care, for a combined 60.4 percent stabilized in care or with family.

Other 2024 outcomes included reaching the age of majority (13.5 percent), DCFS jurisdiction being terminated (10.2 percent), dual supervision or Probation lead/602 status (10.6 percent), primary CSW no longer needing support (3.3 percent), and inability to locate the youth (2.0 percent).

In 2025, 64.0 percent of exiting youth were stabilized in DCFS care, 2.3 percent were stabilized in the home of a parent, and 10.3 percent were stabilized in relative care, for a combined 76.6 percent stabilized in care or with family. The remaining 2025 outcomes were reaching the age of majority (9.8 percent), DCFS jurisdiction being terminated (6.1 percent), dual supervision or Probation lead/602 status (3.3 percent), primary CSW no longer needing support (2.8 percent), and inability to locate the youth (1.4 percent).

Table 3.

Outcomes for Youth Exiting the Runaway Outreach Unit Calendar Year 2024		
Outcome	Number of Youth	Percentage
Stabilized in DCFS Care	109	44.5%
Stabilized in Home of Parent	18	7.3%
Stabilized in Relative Care	21	8.6%
Reached Age of Majority	33	13.5%
DCFS Jurisdiction Terminated	25	10.2%
Primary CSW no longer in need of support	8	3.3%
Dual Supervision/Probation is the Lead/602 Status	26	10.6%
Unable to locate	5	2.0%

Table 4.

Outcomes for Youth Exiting the Runaway Outreach Unit Calendar Year 2025		
Outcome	Number of Youth	Percentage
Stabilized in DCFS Care	137	64.0%
Stabilized in Home of Parent	5	2.3%
Stabilized in Relative Care	22	10.3%
Reached Age of Majority	21	9.8%
DCFS Jurisdiction Terminated	13	6.1%
Primary CSW no longer in need of support	6	2.8%
Dual Supervision/Probation is the Lead/602 Status	7	3.3%
Unable to locate	3	1.4%

5. Evidence-Based Programming

Commercially exploited youth are connected to evidence-based interventions to address their mental health and complex trauma. Evidence-based programming for exploited youth includes a variety of options, including Wraparound Services, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Seeking Safety, electroencephalogram (EEG) Neurofeedback, Multisystemic Therapy, Functional Family Therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, Nurse-Family Partnership, Intensive Field Clinical Capable Services, and Full-Service Partnership services.

6. Comprehensive Training in Child Trafficking

DCFS contracts with CAST to provide a wide array of training courses for service providers to support learning about the dynamics of trafficking, helpful frameworks, and best practices for working with survivors. Topics include Human Trafficking 101, Advanced Human Trafficking (102), Impact of Trauma, Engagement of Youth Through Psychoeducation, Neurobiology of Trauma, Harm Reduction, Motivational Interviewing, Males and Exploitation, Exploitation and Children with Disabilities, Social Media: Threats and Solutions, Human Trafficking for Caregivers, and many other trainings that are added based on the needs of the County's providers.

7. Advocacy Services for Youth Impacted by Child Trafficking

Advocacy Services is a trauma-informed, relational-based intervention option that is available to children and youth impacted by child trafficking to support youth safety, stability, and well-being. Services are youth-centered and based on trauma-informed principles. Through youth voice and choice, Advocacy Plans and Safety Plans are developed and implemented. Youth decide which short and long-term goals they would like to work on. In the advocacy program, youth have access to funding to support recreational and therapeutic activities such as yoga, boxing, art classes, and equine therapy. They can also access funding and support for tattoo removal, transportation, hygiene products, basic need items, and other items deemed necessary and helpful to achieve well-being. Through the advocacy program, youth are connected to Survivor Leaders and Empowerment Activities to create a sense of community, belonging, and support toward regaining agency, identity, and self-advocacy, while also being engaged and empowered through psychoeducation opportunities, independent living skills, and job readiness workshops.

8. Specialized Foster Care Placements for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children

DCFS currently contracts with two STRTPs that provide care specifically for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) - ZOE Home for Youth (ZOE) and Optimist. While some youth do not want to live in a home specifically for youth impacted by trafficking, others prefer to be with peers who have similar lived experiences and shared understanding.

ZOE serves youth with the highest levels of complex trauma due to the impact of various forms of abuse, violence, and other adverse experiences (i.e., physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect, domestic violence, trafficking, sexual assault, gang associations, and intergenerational trauma).

Youth in its care often cope with health conditions, psychological conditions, learning disabilities, lack of schooling, poor social engagement, substance use disorders, undocumented status, and other challenges. Most of the youth who come to the ZOE arrive in the midst of crisis, survival mode, untreated trauma and medical conditions, and without consistent mental health or substance use treatment.

Since ZOE opened in August 2021, the following placement strategies have been used to promote placement safety, placement stability, and each youth's therapeutic journey:

- Providing an approximately one to two weeks pause after a child leaves ZOE before admitting a new youth, to give staff and current youth time to process the transition and prepare for arrival of a new youth.
- Reducing the maximum number of youth living at ZOE at one time to three or four, depending on the best interests of the current population. ZOE found that by the time the fourth youth arrives, the first and second youth have often stabilized, while the new youth is often in crisis and can contribute to destabilization of the existing youth, affecting their participation in the program and overall success. When ZOE paused admissions at three youth, stabilization was more achievable.
- Increasing staffing to a one-to-one ratio as much as possible due to the high level of need requiring additional support for emergency room and urgent care visits related to medical conditions; appointments that support well-being, school, extracurricular, and therapeutic activities; meetings with approved visitors; crisis prevention, intervention, and de-escalation; and engaging youth in activities and relationships in the home.
- Sustaining additional leadership and clinical support capacity, including a full-time Clinical Director, Campus Safety Manager, and Assistant Director, to address the intensive needs of youth and staff, although these positions are not required under the current contract. The program has supplemented support for these positions through fundraising and plans to pursue complex care funding to help maintain this capacity over time.
- Providing opportunities for young people to earn and save money by complying with rules related to safety, respect and responsibilities, and by participating in vocational internships that allow them to explore careers of interest, such as mechanics, cosmetology, barista work, and animal care.
- Utilizing a thorough vetting, selection and hiring process, and recruiting staff with lived experiences like those of the youth culturally, linguistically, and experientially.
- Providing staff support and training through weekly team meetings, weekly all-staff meetings, debriefings after serious incidents, professional and clinical supervision, and referrals to outside support for staff well-being, when needed.
- Hiring a full-time substance abuse counselor on site, although not required under the contract, because many youth have untreated substance use disorders that are barriers to success.
- Communicating regularly with all members of the youth's CFT.
- Requesting an emergency placement preservation CFT meeting to secure intensive support and collaborative teaming aimed at stabilizing and preserving the youth's placement before disruption occurs.
- Providing trauma-informed training and service delivery.
- A separate advocacy team that is not part of the residential program and can support the youth in the community.

- Promoting and supporting any family or kinship connections in the community. Many of these individuals do not have transportation or resources, so ZOE will assist as needed if the County cannot support transportation, activities, or meals with them. As a result, reunifications between youth and their families have been possible.
- If there is a conflict between two youth involving a physical threat, ZOE requests an emergency placement preservation meeting and seeks County approval to temporarily move a youth offsite with staff to safe field sites equipped with beds, showers, bathrooms, and kitchens until the physical threat and safety risk can be resolved, with the goal of preserving the placement.
- Partnering with local alternative school options for youth who have not succeeded in public school settings and working with the youth, the child's social worker, the Education Rights Holder, and the currently enrolled school to hold a Best Interest Determination meeting as soon as possible.
- Partnering with local and federal law enforcement to report child abuse and exploitation incidents and to obtain support for related investigations.
- Partnering with community organizations to provide free extracurricular and therapeutic activities and experiences, hair services, and more.

The other STRTP, specifically serving commercially exploited youth, is operated by Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services (Optimist). Optimist converted its STRTP to an Innovative Model of Care on October 27, 2023, specializing in the care of youth identified as CSEC.

Strategies implemented by Optimist that help achieve stability include:

- Caring for a maximum of four youth at a time, with a ratio of two staff to one youth.
- Interviewing youth to help ensure compatibility with the other youth in the home.
- Community involvement during the week has supported stability. Keeping youth engaged during the week in a variety of activities (i.e., music lessons, cooking, dance, sports, and tutoring) helps stabilize young people. Weekend outings (i.e., museums, the zoo, hiking, the beach, bike rides, job fairs, and amusement parks) also support stability.
- Providing opportunities to earn and save money incentives for attending school, cleaning room, meeting harm reduction goals, doing extra chores, and engaging in adaptive, positive behaviors.
- Utilizing an integrated therapeutic model grounded in the harm reduction approach. Staff are trained in advance in harm reduction strategies so that staff meet youth where they are, prioritizing safety, relationship building, and incremental change rather than punitive processes.

- Utilizing helpful frameworks such as the Stages of Change Model and Motivational Interviewing to practice a non-judgmental approach, encourages youth to think critically about problems, and guide them in developing solutions that work for them.
- Providing psychoeducation to engage youth around conversations that are essential for prevention and intervention (i.e., healthy relations, coping, emotion regulation, self-care, impact of trauma, caring for your mental health, substance use, human trafficking).
- Training on trauma and its impact on the brain and child development allows staff to understand how to be trauma responsive and provide appropriate care.
- Training for staff in reflecting and understanding their own reactions, regulating their own emotions, practicing self-care, and managing vicarious trauma.

Challenges

Placement stability for CSEC youth is often affected by multiple factors, including runaway behavior, mental health needs, substance use, and dynamics commonly associated with commercial sexual exploitation, such as trauma bonding as well as dissatisfaction with placement or conflict with peers in the home. These youth run away from placement at higher rates than the general foster care population; however, a runaway episode does not necessarily result in a placement change, particularly when foster care providers have the training, resources, and support needed to preserve the placement.

Challenges also arise when foster care providers feel unsafe around a young person whose behaviors threaten the safety of themselves or others in the home. In these instances, it may be difficult to preserve a placement despite offering crisis intervention services.

Resources Needed to Promote Placement Stability

- An ongoing resource gap for exploited children is the availability of drug treatment and detoxification facilities for minors when needed. Without addressing substance use disorders, it is extraordinarily difficult to make progress in treatment and recovery.
- Immediate crisis mental health services with well-trained, seasoned clinicians who are flexible in their approach to service.
- Transportation services are needed so youth have greater mobility and can maximize their integration into society and easily access recreation, work, and appointments.

- Ongoing caregiver training and caregiver support, including immediate childcare, financial support to repair property damaged by youth, and respite care.

As reflected in this 60-day report, DCFS remains committed to ensuring that youth in our care, particularly commercially exploited youth, experience the safety, security, and permanence of a stable placement. DCFS has made meaningful progress, including reducing the placement move rate for commercially exploited youth from 5.29 moves per 1,000 days in 2024 to 3.99 moves per 1,000 days in 2025, which is below the national standard. This progress reflects a multifaceted approach that includes the work of PST, the implementation of trauma-informed evidence-based programming, and specialized care models developed by providers such as ZOE and Optimist.

Despite these positive trends, complex challenges persist. The profound trauma, substance use disorders, and runaway behaviors associated with child trafficking continue to present challenges for the current system. To sustain and build on these gains, DCFS must continue addressing resource gaps, including immediate access to youth drug treatment and detoxification facilities, flexible crisis mental health services, and caregiver supports, such as respite care and financial assistance. Moving forward, DCFS will continue to evaluate its efforts through continuous case reviews and youth focus groups. DCFS also remains committed to refining practice, strengthening staff capacity in harm reduction and motivational interviewing, and collaborating with the Board and community partners to support greater placement stability for these young people.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me or Aldo Marin, Board Liaison, at (213) 371-6052.

BTN:JF:DI

LD:AE:mf

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisor



DAVID J. CARROLL
Director

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

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Third District

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KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

July 7, 2026

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Chair Pro Tem
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: David J. Carroll 
Director

**REPORT BACK ON STRENGTHENING SERVICES AND ALIGNING RESOURCES FOR PROBATION
AND FOSTER YOUTH IMPACTED BY HUMAN TRAFFICKING (ITEM NO. 22, APRIL 7, 2026)**

On April 7, 2026, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Probation Officer, the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and the Los Angeles County Department of Youth Development (DYD) to report back at intervals of 15, 30, 60, and 90 days regarding efforts to improve outcomes for youth impacted by trafficking. Directive 7 of the motion directs DYD to submit a written report back to the Board within 90 days detailing plans to work with DCFS to ensure that trafficking training is incorporated for DYD staff and contracted agencies as a required component of the existing training contract.

This memo provides the Board with an overview of DYD's efforts to coordinate with DCFS on training its staff and providers and plans to further build its capacity through data tracking, assessments, and referral systems.

Overview

DYD is committed to building its capacity to support trafficked youth by equipping staff and providers across its continuum of services with training and technical guidance to identify trafficked youth and refer them to appropriate services. Trafficking is defined as including commercial sexual exploitation, labor trafficking, and labor trafficking by forced criminality. DYD's currently employs about 50 programmatic staff and its programs and services are summarized below. DYD has a total of about 80 contracts and an estimated average of 2-3 staff per provider that will need to be trained. Some providers have multiple contracts but nonetheless have different staff teams to be trained. The estimated number of young people these programs serve annually are indicated below. Together, these providers have a reach more than 12,000 youth annually, including many youth who may be at risk for or impacted by trafficking. Further details about DYD's programs can be found in Attachment A.

- Youth Development Networks (YDN: 32-40 providers, serving 4,000 youth)
- Rooted School-Based Programs (4 providers at 7 schools, serving 7,000 youth)
- Youth Diversion (12 providers, serving 700 youth)
- Reentry Action for Youth (RAY: 19 providers, serving 540 youth)
- Safe Healing Centers (SHC: 1 provider with capacity to serve 4 probation or foster youth; 3 providers aiming to launch in the next year)
- Credible Messengers (5 providers serving youth in all 6 Juvenile Probation facilities)

Training

DYD is working with DCFS to leverage its existing training contract with CAST, which is in place through April 2029, to provide training for DYD staff and providers. This includes:

Access to existing online trainings for staff and providers - DCFS is sharing its existing online trainings with DYD on a monthly basis for distribution to both DYD staff and providers. DYD is sharing these training opportunities to its provider network and requiring all programmatic staff to attend at least one Introduction to Human Trafficking of Minors 101 training before the end of 2026. Additional optional trainings include: Advanced Human Trafficking of Minors 102, Strategies for De-Escalation, and Honoring the Impact of Secondary and Vicarious Trauma on Providers, and others as available.

Planning for in-person trainings for providers - DCFS has identified early opportunities for DYD providers to attend in-person trainings, including:

- 100 training slots for August 18 Human Trafficking 101. The content includes defining human trafficking, root causes, risk factors and vulnerabilities associated with human trafficking, biases of systemic oppression, pathways to victimization, potential traffickers and tactics, helpful frameworks to use when working with survivors, application of trauma-informed principles, and programs and services available to support impacted children, youth and families.
- 100 training slots for August 25-26 Human Trafficking 102. The content includes legal definitions of trafficking, survivor rights, root causes and risk factors, prevention strategies, application of best practices, cultural healing practices, and resources.

DYD is continuing to coordinate with DCFS to identify future training opportunities to ensure all relevant provider staff are trained as the annual training calendar continues to be developed. This may include embedding trainings in DYD's existing in-person quarterly convenings for providers and offering annual refresher trainings. While DYD staff will attend online trainings we will also designate a trafficking lead/liaison in each program team to join the in-person training with providers.

Protocols

DYD will continue to work with the Child Trafficking Leadership Team (CTLT) network to incorporate and strengthen protocols to better identify and serve youth at risk or victimized by trafficking and to support provider staff to complement and bolster the learnings from the trainings. DYD is actively developing protocols as detailed below.

- **Data tracking** - DYD is reviewing intake assessments across its continuum of services to identify opportunities to incorporate screening questions to identify youth impacted by trafficking. This will help DYD better understand the scope of trafficked youth in its services. DYD will consult with the CTLT and trafficking experts to determine appropriate indicators to include.
- **Piloting a comprehensive intake assessment** - DYD met with West Coast Children's Clinic to discuss an opportunity to pilot a screening tool with our providers to identify youth clients who may be trafficked. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) is a validated screening tool developed with input from survivors and practitioners and is currently being validated to expand to include labor trafficking and forced criminality. DCFS is currently participating in the pilot and DYD is exploring participating in the pilot in Fall 2026 by enlisting select providers from its RAY and Diversion programs to participate.
- **Creating referral pathways** - DYD continues to partner with the CTLT to establish referral pathways for its providers to access trafficking services. This includes DCFS and Probation advocacy programs, DMH Parent Empowerment Program, and Public Health System Navigation services. DYD will continue to partner with CTLT and DCFS to develop a referral process and communications campaign to promote awareness of advocacy, prevention, and care coordination services. These resources can be promoted through DYD's providers, Heart of Youth Justice Reimagined coalitions, YDN Regional Collective Tables, the Child Trafficking Steering Committee, and its larger network of partners.

Next Steps

DYD will continue to coordinate with DCFS, the CTLT, and other partners, and explore long-term funding, to build specialized capacity among its staff and providers long-term to serve youth at risk or victims of trafficking. DYD is grateful for DCFS' partnership and the ability to leverage their training resources to build its initial capacity to better serve young people impacted by trafficking.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 584-4331 or dcarroll@dyd.lacounty.gov.

DC:ps;kf

Attachment A: Summary of DYD Programs and Services

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Department of Children and Family Services
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Probation Department



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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GUILLERMO VIERA ROSA
Chief Probation Officer

July 7, 2026

TO: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Chair Pro Tem
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Guillermo Viera Rosa 
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **REPORT BACK – SUPPORTING PROBATION AND FOSTER YOUTH
IMPACTED BY TRAFFICKING WITH COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORTS
(ITEM NO. 22, AGENDA OF APRIL 7, 2026)**

On April 7, 2026, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Probation Officer, the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Department of Youth Development (DYD) to report back at 15, 30, 60, and 90 days.

This report provides Probation's 60-day report-back information, as directed and summarized below:

- a. A proposed coordinated strategy to ensure that youth identified as experiencing exploitation and trafficking are connected to advocacy services as early as possible. This strategy should include discussion of Probation youth, dual system youth and non-systems impacted youth.
- b. An explanation of why there have been very few referrals to DYD advocacy agencies with purchase orders over the past several months, along with Probation's plan moving forward to ensure that all SB 794 funding is fully utilized using the Probation emergency declaration to support services and assistance for youth impacted by CSE and youth who go missing. This explanation should include identification of structural or operational barriers and proposed solutions to improve referral flow and service uptake.

- c. Clarity on the role DYD can play in expanding prevention and stabilization services for youth impacted by trafficking, and what resources, including Healthier Communities, Stronger Families, Thriving Children (HST) funds, SP 794 and SB 855, could be shifted to fund this expansion and scale these programs. This should include an analysis of existing funding sources, including SB 855 and SB 794 unspent dollars and existing balances, that could be used to support DYD's capacity to support youth impacted by trafficking. The analysis should examine how to leverage existing contracts for training and consultation, and what programs can be rightsized to ensure funding amounts are matched with actual program capacity and demand.
- d. A discussion of opportunities to reduce dual-system involvement for youth impacted by trafficking by consolidating case management within the least restrictive, most supportive system. This should include a discussion of challenges and potential barriers to doing so.
 - i. Data on the number of youth identified as being impacted by trafficking who were referred to advocacy services over the past two years. The data should be disaggregated by contracted advocacy providers and reported separately by agency (including DCFS advocacy contracts and agencies receiving services through DYD purpose orders) and should not be combined across agencies.
- e. The report should also include available outcome measures by agency, including: youth engagement; the length of time advocacy services were provided by each agency; indicators of youth stability following closure of advocacy services; and the reason for case closure, with all data reported separately for each agency. Outcome measures should prioritize indicators of stability, connection to care and reductions in system involvement.
- f. A discussion of the outcomes that are tracked following locate-and-recovery operations for missing young people, including service connections, placement stability and repeat missing episodes. This should also include recommendations on how youth voices can be incorporated into assessing the effectiveness of recovery interventions.
- g. A review of Local MOUs with LASD and LAPD to determine whether these services continue to be necessary, particularly given the County's adoption of a public health model and the low percentage of youth recovered by law enforcement. This review should include options for shifting this initiative and funding to an alternative model. Any recommended changes should consider how to maintain safety while expanding community-based, relationship-centered approaches to engagement and recovery.

- h. A plan detailing how Probation and DCFS 241.1 units will communicate all suspected or identified youth at risk of, or experiencing, Commercial Sexual
 - i. The plan should include participation and coordination across multidisciplinary teams and departments, including DYD, the Probation 241.1 unit participating in the CTU weekly MDTs when dual-jurisdiction youth are being discussed, and a CTU Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) participating in weekly MDT when dual-jurisdiction youth are discussed, in order to collaborate on case planning, jurisdictional considerations and service coordination.
- i. A plan that identifies alternatives to detention for youth identified as victims of CSE who have misdemeanor charges or who are currently detained on warrants or probation violations.
 - i. This should include referrals for all identified youth to appropriate community advocacy agencies for services and support.
 - ii. It should also outline a process for reviewing currently detained cases to determine whether release and where appropriate termination of probation jurisdiction is warranted.
 - iii. It should address both new or returning cases by establishing clear alternatives-to-detention options, as well as the review of existing detained cases for potential release and termination of probation supervision.
- j. A discussion of ways to publicize and improve the referral process across County departments and stakeholders to ensure that all who are lawfully allowed to refer relevant youth to these services understand that they can make those referrals and understand how to make those referrals.
- k. A proposed coordinated strategy to ensure that youth identified as experiencing exploitation and trafficking are connected to advocacy services as early as possible. This strategy should include discussion of Probation youth, dual system youth and non-systems impacted youth.
- l. A discussion of ways to publicize and improve the referral process across County departments and stakeholders to ensure that all who are lawfully allowed to refer relevant youth to these services understand that they can make those referrals and understand how to make those referrals.

To support timely access to advocacy services for youth identified as at-risk of or impacted by exploitation and trafficking, DCFS, Probation, and DYD propose a dual-track, trauma-informed response model designed to promote equitable access to advocacy services through the following strategies:

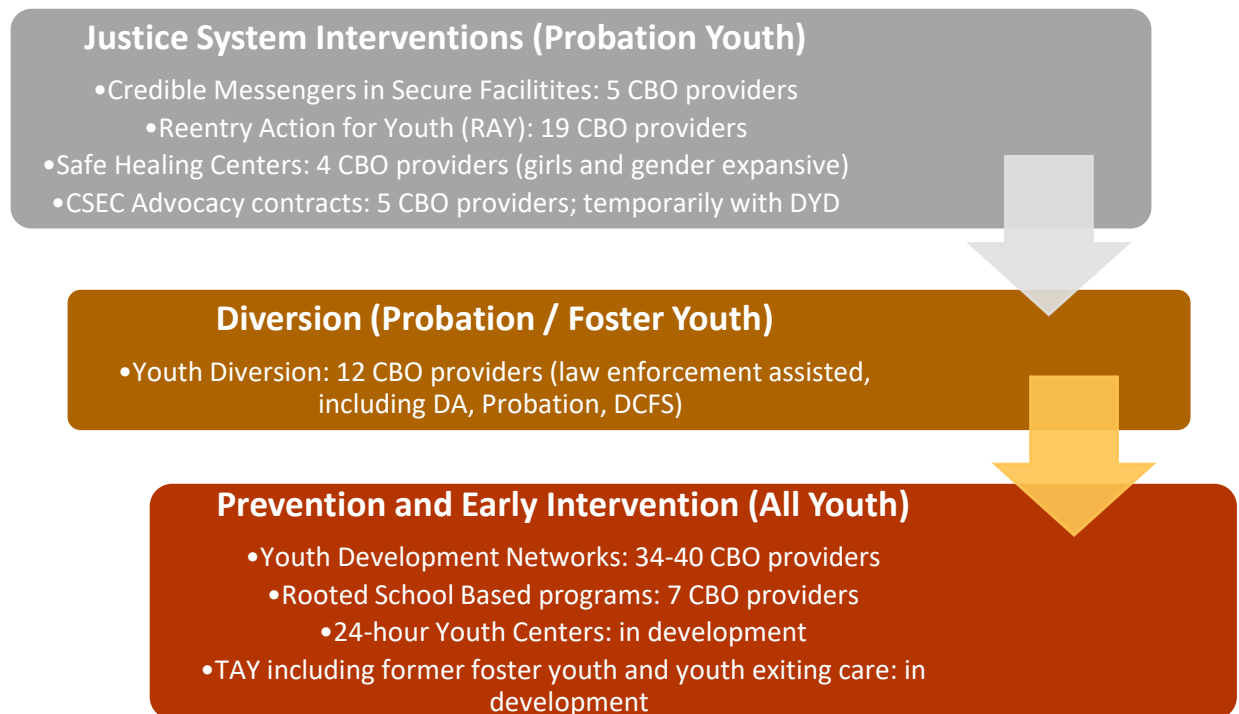
1. Outreach and Cross-System Communication: The proposed strategy would include informing County department leadership and staff, community-based partners (both contracted and non-contracted providers), youth homeless shelters, LGBTQ+ centers, the Native American Indian Commission, the United American Indian Involvement Center, drop-in centers, Parent Partners, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, school districts, law enforcement partners, and faith-based partners of the prevention and intervention services available to both system-involved and non-system-involved youth. Members of the Child Trafficking Leadership Team and the Child Trafficking Steering Committee would collaborate to engage their respective departments, provider networks, and community partners to ensure awareness of available advocacy services in Los Angeles County and how those services may be accessed.
2. Systems Navigation Support: The proposed strategy would include adding advocacy services, along with other human trafficking resources, to the Department of Public Health's Systems Navigation Services so that members of the public can be connected to a navigator who can provide individualized support and referrals.
3. Training Enhancements: Human trafficking trainings offered through the County contract with the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) would be updated to include information on how advocacy services may be accessed by non-system-involved youth once the new contracts are executed upon Board approval.
4. Low-Barrier Access to Services: Under the proposed strategy, youth and parents/caregivers who are not system involved would be able to request advocacy services by contacting an Advocacy Services Agency directly by phone or email. A one-page Advocacy Services Information Sheet for the public would be developed in partnership with the Child Trafficking Leadership Team, Child Trafficking Steering Committee, and Parent Empowerment Program prevention workgroup, all of which include lived experience experts as members. A Community-Based Services referral form could be completed by the youth, caregiver/parent, or referring agency, with appropriate consent, and advocacy providers could assist youth and families in completing the referral form as needed.
5. Equitable and Field-Based Service Delivery: Contracted Advocacy Services providers would deploy advocates to meet youth where they are, including in their homes, juvenile halls, or safe drop-in centers, thereby reducing barriers to service access and eliminating the need for formal child welfare involvement in order to receive support.
6. Accountability and Continuous Quality Improvement: Advocacy Services providers would track and report the time elapsed between identification of trafficking risk and first direct contact with an advocate to help ensure that youth and caregivers receive outreach within the contracted timeframe of three business days to schedule an intake appointment. For First Responder Protocol crisis response referrals, Advocacy

Services providers would be required to respond in person within 90 minutes of being contacted by DCFS or Probation to participate in a joint response.

7. Public Facing Referral Information: Information regarding community-based advocacy services would be added to the public-facing Los Angeles County Human Trafficking website under the Resources section once Board approval is received for the new Advocacy Services contracts.

In addition, DYD continues to build and strengthen a care-first continuum of early intervention, preventative and intervention programs that provide supportive, youth-centered services anchored in community-based providers and rooted in culturally and developmentally appropriate approaches. The continuum serves non-system involved youth through preventative youth development support, and Probation and DCFS youth through more intensive intervention services. DYD is currently working to increase providers' capacity to take on new referrals. Most programs are currently full or near full capacity. Additionally, DYD is developing strategies to build and strengthen providers' trafficking expertise, including CSEC, labor trafficking, and labor trafficking by forced criminality, across the continuum.

Each of the following programs and opportunities are accessible to support youth who are victims or at risk of trafficking:



Reentry Action for Youth (19 providers with capacity to serve 540 youth): Reentry Action for Youth (RAY) connects justice-involved youth with a mentor with lived experience of justice system involvement through 18 contracted community-based providers serving all 5 districts and all 8 Service Planning Areas. Mentors provide case management, system navigation and advocacy, service linkages, monetary incentives for program participation, and flexible financial support to meet youth-specific needs. RAY prioritizes youth who may be released from or avoid detention through program participation, as well as all girls and gender expansive youth. DYD is also working to establish a referral pathway to RAY for youth who are residing at Short-Term Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) to better support transition planning and youths' return to their homes.

Credible Messengers in Secure Facilities (5 providers): Credible Messengers (CM) Programming bring community leaders who have personal lived experience with justice-system involvement into Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall, Campus Kilpatrick and the East camps through five contracted providers to engage youth in mentorship, programs and activities designed to foster youth development, healing, and overall well-being. As youth re-enter their homes, schools and communities, CMs may continue to provide structured support and reentry services for both youth and their families. Detained youth involved in or at risk of trafficking may be linked with this supportive staffing and programming to receive support while in facilities and through reentry.

Safe Healing Centers (SHCs – 1 provider with capacity to serve 4 probation or foster youth; 3 providers aiming to launch in the next year): DYD continues to work to pilot SHCs as small, community-based, therapeutic homes for girls and gender expansive youth who are court-ordered to be removed from their homes as an alternative to juvenile hall or camp, or as a step-down from a Secure Youth Treatment Facility. Currently, Zoe International is contracted with DYD to provide two SHC beds for youth under Probation supervision who are identified as CSE. DYD also continues to work with three additional partners – A New Way of Life, Boys/Girls Republic and Beloved Village – to launch sites for girls and gender expansive youth involved in the Probation system in the next year. SHCs provide trauma-informed care, healing centered programming and mentoring by Credible Messengers with lived experience in a therapeutically designed, home-like environment.

Advocacy Services contracts (5 providers): DYD is contracted with LGBTQ+ Center, National Center Youth Law, ZOE International, Saving Innocence, and CAST to provide specialized advocacy and support for justice system youth who are Child Traffick (CT) involved. These providers are currently accepting referrals through Probation.

Youth Diversion (12 providers): DYD's Diversion Program plays a critical role in supporting Probation-involved and foster youth, including youth impacted by CT. Through a network of 12 community-based diversion providers, the program serves youth referred

by Law Enforcement agencies, the DA's Office, and DCFS, including youth currently on Probation for other offenses. Referrals are made in lieu of further justice system involvement or to prevent deeper system penetration. Within this population, some youth have known CT involvement or lived experience.

Additionally, DYD is preparing to pilot a program with Probation to receive WIC 654 referrals, which will allow youth under non-court Probation supervision to participate in diversion services in lieu of formal case filing with the District Attorney. These referrals may also include youth with CT backgrounds. Through trauma-informed and restorative approaches, DYD's Diversion Program provides supportive, non-punitive interventions that address underlying needs while promoting safety, stability, and long-term well-being.

Youth Development Networks (YDN – 34 to 40 providers): YDN are a primary prevention and early intervention strategy of DYD that are low-barrier and high-access networks of care, creating an ecosystem of support to meet the diverse needs of youth and families. DYD currently contracts with 34 community-based providers across the county that offer positive youth development and enrichment, including life skills, arts, workforce development, mentoring, civic engagement, education, healing and recreation programs. DYD is launching an updated YDN model that will expand providers from 5 Supervisorial District regions to 8 Service Planning Areas and establish regional collaborative tables to build local hubs for youth development collaboration and outreach. The YDN service model will shift to two levels of services: Prevention/Enrichment programming (Tier 1) that promotes youth well-being, with an estimated 24 providers; and individualized Early Intervention/Care Coordination services (Tier 2), with an estimated 8 providers, to reduce risk of disconnection or system involvement.

YDN providers in Tier 1 would be suitable for any youth impacted by trafficking who is in need of positive peer relationships and enrichment activities. YDN providers in Tier 2 would be suitable for any youth impacted by trafficking who may need extra care coordination but who are not in need of intensive therapeutic or reentry services. YDN Tier 2 providers would be able to serve a limited number of DCFS and Probation youth at their current budgeted capacity, inclusive of current DCFS Diversion referrals, and youth impacted by trafficking, estimated at 25 per year. We anticipate this new tier of services to be in place in late 2026.

Rooted School-Based Programs (7 to 14 Providers): These providers work in school settings and will come into contact with youth on a daily basis that may be at risk for trafficking. DYD's School Based team plans to incorporate CT education and care at the provider level via training on methods to identify and support young people at risk of trafficking, or those in need of information to empower themselves and prevent involvement. Providers have disclosed that traffickers are targeting high schools and even middle schools to recruit youth in activities that will adversely affect them and their community while on and off campus. This also highlights the need for further connection with partners that do safe passage work and linkages to our Youth Development

Networks as safe spaces outside of the school setting. DYD currently contracts for 7 school sites and plans to expand to up to 14 total schools during FY26-27.

Emerging DYD services and opportunities: DYD is currently in the planning phase for two new initiatives that will offer opportunities to support trafficked youth.

- 24-hour Youth Centers: A key component of Youth Justice Reimagined, the recommendations that led to the establishment of DYD, are 24-hour Youth and Community Centers (YCCs). YCCs are community operated facilities that offer youth development programming, a recreational space, crisis response services, and temporary shelter for young people. YCCs are intended to create safe spaces to support basic needs, help youth develop essential life skills, and reduce justice system involvement. DYD is in the process of reviewing legal analyses, best practices, and a review of existing county youth centers to formulate a plan for implementing DYD-run YCCs. As YCC plans move forward, DYD will integrate protocols for referrals and safe spaces for trafficked youth.
- TAY Care Coordination: On May 18, 2026, DYD submitted its proposed program model to support TAY including former foster youth and youth exiting care in response to the November 2025 board motion. In serving TAY via a care coordination and support model, staff will receive training on CSEC and other trafficking awareness and prevention during their onboarding process. This ensures a foundational knowledge of the dangers of trafficking for TAY, how to prevent or intervene in situations where youth may require additional support, and how to support youth that may have been previously involved in trafficking.

Resource Directory: DYD has assumed responsibility over a contract with the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) to convene the Child Trafficking Leadership Team (CTLT) monthly and conduct an Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinating Body Feasibility Study. The CTLT is charged with developing implementation plans for the County's Five-Year Child Trafficking Strategic Plan. As part of this Plan, DYD is also working to support the development of a resource directory of vetted providers and trainers in child sex and labor trafficking.

Additional Plans to Strengthen Supports for Youth Impacted or At High Risk of Trafficking: DYD is well-positioned to leverage, expand and strengthen the above-mentioned initiatives by building the capacity of existing providers to better identify and meet the needs of youth impacted by or at high risk of trafficking, as well as to identify and add expert organizations to these networks. Furthermore, DYD can adapt and strengthen protocols to better serve youth impacted by trafficking. Referral and data systems need to be developed, and capacity-building provided for DYD providers to support youth impacted by trafficking. These efforts are already underway as DYD

participates in the CTLT to build coordinated systems to support trafficked youth. Specifically, DYD is able to strengthen the following:

Engaging youth in custody prior to release

DYD's goal is to engage youth as soon as possible prior to release to build rapport and trust with providers and ensure a warm handoff between Probation and DYD services. Ideally, engagement should begin at least 3 months prior to release from Probation custody and DYD providers should participate in Probation MDTs. Once DYD's new child trafficking services are confirmed, DCFS and Probation can consider adding DYD to the interagency MOU for STAR and Dream Court MDTs. DYD credible messengers are able to engage youth before they leave camps, halls and Secure Youth Treatment Facilities, and maintain or link youth to reentry supports, including through RAY, as they return home.

Proposed referral process for Trafficked youth

Probation and DCFS existing data and referral systems will need to be adapted to integrate DYD providers. Probation and DCFS use a Child Tracking systems database for referrals, case plans, and approvals. Additionally, Probation and DCFS' First Responders Crisis Response protocol for trafficked youth can be adapted to refer youth to DYD providers for additional short-term or long-term supports. The departments can work together to develop temporary, secure referral mechanisms while platform integration is in process, and an MOU is finalized to support data sharing and coordination.

DYD's referral systems are currently being enhanced as the department is in process of transitioning providers to the Apricot case management platform for various services. RAY and Diversion providers are currently in the system. DYD will have the ability to integrate referrals from Probation and DCFS into Apricot. While most referrals will flow from DCFS or Probation to DYD providers, there may be occasions when DYD is serving a system-involved youth that they identify as trafficked. DYD will notify the appropriate department, for coordinated case planning, or if needed to refer them to providers or other services that must be initiated by Probation or DCFS.

To strengthen screening and identification of trafficked youth, DYD met with West Coast Children's Clinic to discuss an opportunity to pilot a screening tool with providers to identify youth clients who may be trafficked. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) is a validated screening tool developed with input from survivors and practitioners and is currently being validated to expand to include labor trafficking and forced criminality. The tool is designed for youth serving organizations including community organizations, child welfare, and juvenile justice. DYD is currently exploring participating in the pilot.

Building capacity: data and training

While some DYD providers across its continuum of care have experience working with youth impacted by CSEC and trafficking, none are experts in this work. DYD is committed to building both staff and provider capacity to better identify and support youth who are victims or at-risk of trafficking, including through:

- Training for department staff and providers - Content will include screening and identification of trafficking victimization or risk; best practices to support impacted youth; opportunities to refer to services; and addressing the specialized needs of populations through a culturally and linguistically relevant lens. DYD will partner with DCFS to leverage their current contract with CAST to train providers.
- Data systems – DYD will also collaborate with Probation, DCFS, and other relevant county departments to improve data systems to better identify youth impacted trafficking.

Proposed budget to build DYD provider capacity to support trafficked youth, as shared in the March 10, 2026 report back to the motion *Supporting Probation and Foster Youth Impacted by Human Trafficking with Community-Based Supports*, DYD is requesting a budget of \$3.64 million annually to build its capacity to support youth impacted by trafficking that are referred by DCFS and Probation. This estimate is based on initial projections by DCFS and Probation of 500 referred youth per year and can be modified once data analysis is completed or reduced dependent on available funding to support a pilot program. The proposed budget includes the following:

- Case Management - DYD proposes to build capacity of its current providers by expanding their contracts to include case managers with trafficking expertise. There is also opportunity for DYD to strengthen how providers work with parents/caregivers as part of case planning and mentoring supports, and to build this component into provider contracts.
- Specialized providers - DYD will also explore contracts with new providers with expertise in trafficking by releasing a Request for Information. DYD will work with Probation and DCFS to review available data to help determine the programs where this capacity is most needed, in terms of service modality (i.e. RAY for Probation youth; YDN Tier 2 or TAY services for DCFS youth), population and geography, including specialized programs for boys and gender expansive youth.
- DYD in-kind staff or contracted support - DYD will identify existing staff to provide contract management for the training provider and consultant contract,

and coordinate across its management team overseeing its various programs to support and monitor implementation of capacity building and referrals.

Item	Budget
Embed Case Managers with CSEC and trafficking expertise in DYD providers across continuum of services. 25 case managers with a caseload of 20 x \$120,000 annually	\$3,000,000
Consultant contract to manage new human trafficking programs (Estimated 20% of total budget)	\$640,000
TOTAL	\$3,640,000

An explanation of why there have been very few referrals to DYD advocacy agencies with purchase orders over the past several months, along with Probation's plan moving forward to ensure that all SB 794 funding is fully utilized using the Probation emergency declaration to support services and assistance for youth impacted by CSE and youth who go missing. This explanation should include identification of structural or operational barriers and proposed solutions to improve referral flow and service uptake.

There were a number of challenges that contributed to the referral gap to the advocacy agencies, including staffing challenges within the Probation Department which slowed the number of staff who were able to complete the referrals, as well as staff able to assess the referrals; the realignment of Campus Kilpatrick as a female/gender expansive location caused some interruption in regular workflow in addition to some training issues of new intake staff regarding the established Detention protocol for potentially commercial exploited youth; and the new agency clearance process for entry into a probation facility to deliver this service component, as well as time needed for advocates to complete the Live Scan and PREA Training compliance process delayed their ability to receive referrals.

Moving forward the Probation Department has addressed many of the staffing issues. The Child Trafficking Unit (CTU) is staffed with an operational Director, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer (SDPO), six (6) Deputy Probation Officers and a Probation Assistant. This will give the unit the ability to review all referrals in a timely manner and make a recommendation and subsequent referral to the advocacy agency that would best meet the youth's needs. In addition, the increased staffing will allow probation to actively support the LOCATE MOU and recommit to pursuing any missing youth. Probation has had ongoing meetings with the department's Fiscal Unit as well as Justice Benefits Incorporated (JBI), to discuss how to maximize the department's claiming for training, and other allowable activities. There is also a commitment in Fiscal Year 26/27 to set up another \$250,000 DOR to DYD for continued advocacy supports.

Potential barriers include the reimbursement process (shared below), which has direct impact to Probation's budget and/or the budget of DYD, in addition to ensuring appropriate dollar amounts remain to support ongoing Probation activities. Another potential barrier is ensuring advocacy agencies have the capacity to fulfill referral needs, especially if there is an increase in referrals as anticipated. Communication between the departments remains essential to addressing these and any additional unanticipated barriers.

Clarity on the role DYD can play in expanding prevention and stabilization services for youth impacted by trafficking, and what resources, including Healthier Communities, Stronger Families, Thriving Children (HST) funds, SP 794 and SB 855, could be shifted to fund this expansion and scale these programs. This should include an analysis of existing funding sources, including SB 855 and SB 794 unspent dollars and existing balances, that could be used to support DYD's capacity to support youth impacted by trafficking. The analysis should examine how to leverage existing contracts for training and consultation, and what programs can be rightsized to ensure funding amounts are matched with actual program capacity and demand.

The partnership with DYD has been developing in a variety of different methods. DYD has committed to building its capacity to support trafficked youth by equipping providers across its continuum with training and technical guidance to identify trafficked youth and refer them to appropriate services.

It is relevant to note that Probation and DCFS utilize these two separate funding sources in different ways. DCFS receives approximately \$3 million annually in SB 855 and SB 794 funding. The breakdown for Fiscal Years 2020-21 through 2024-25 is provided below.

		FY2024-2025	FY2023-2024	FY2022-2023	FY2021-2022	FY2020-2021
Funding Source		ST Allocation	ST Allocation	ST Allocation	ST Allocation	ST Allocation
SB855		\$2,773,707	\$2,774,874	\$2,774,504	\$2,747,084	\$2,832,216
SB794		\$343,855	\$206,096	\$210,236	\$214,561	\$208,241
Subtotal	(a)	\$3,117,562	\$2,980,970	\$2,984,740	\$2,961,645	\$3,040,457

DCFS utilizes SB 855 and SB 794 funding in two ways: direct services provided by DCFS staff and contracted provider services for children, youth, and families, both of which are described below.

Department Staffing

Historically, the largest expenditure charged to the CSEC allocation has been DCFS staffing. These costs include both time-study charges and direct program staffing costs.

The largest quarterly staffing expenditure is associated with time-study claims. The chart below reflects staffing costs for Fiscal Year 2025-26 through the third quarter.

		Code	Source	1st	2nd	3rd
Time Study Related Costs	SB855	918	327.1 Column 1	803,475	598,668	353,202
Time Study Related Costs	SB855	918	327.1 Column 5	340,093	263,112	157,763
Time Study Related Costs	SB855	918	327.1 Column 7	100,544	112,430	68,780
Time Study Related Costs	SB855	918	327.3 Column 2 EDP	19,110	20,759	9,655
Time Study Related Costs	SB794	918	327.4 Column 1	-	-	-
				1,263,222	994,969	589,400
Time Study Related Costs	SB855	920	327.1 Column 1	-	-	-
Time Study Related Costs	SB855	920	327.1 Column 5	-	-	-
Time Study Related Costs	SB855	920	327.1 Column 7	-	-	-
Time Study Related Costs	SB855	920	327.3 Column 2 EDP	-	-	-
Time Study Related Costs	SB794	920	327.4 Column 1	-	-	-
				-	-	-
Direct Costs of Program Staff	SB855	918	327.1 Column 6	130,099	122,457	131,439
Time Study Related Costs	SB794	928	327.1 Column 1	89,275	199,556	88,301
Time Study Related Costs	SB794	928	327.1 Column 5	37,788	87,704	39,441
Time Study Related Costs	SB794	928	327.1 Column 7	11,172	37,477	17,195
Time Study Related Costs	SB794	928	327.3 Column 2 EDP	2,124	6,920	2,415
Time Study Related Costs	SB794	928	327.4 Column 1	975	2,047	1,050
				141,334	333,704	148,402
Time Study Related Costs	SB794	951	327.1 Column 1	-	299,334	88,301
Time Study Related Costs	SB794	951	327.1 Column 5	-	131,556	39,441
Time Study Related Costs	SB794	951	327.1 Column 7	-	56,215	17,195
Time Study Related Costs	SB794	951	327.3 Column 2 EDP	-	10,378	2,415
Time Study Related Costs	SB794	951	327.4 Column 1	-	3,070	1,050
				-	500,553	148,402
			FY 25-26	1,534,655	1,951,683	1,017,643

The data above is consistent with historical averages, under which DCFS spends approximately \$1 million to \$2 million per quarter on staffing, with an additional \$100,000 to \$200,000 in direct staffing costs. DCFS does not redirect underutilized contract funds to cover staffing costs. Staff performing time studies for State-approved CSEC activities are charged to the CSEC allocation regardless of whether maximum contract amounts are fully utilized.

The following section describes DCFS' specialized direct services and contracted service programs for children and youth impacted by child trafficking.

DCFS' Dedicated to Restoration, Empowerment, Advocacy and Mentoring Program

Through the Dedicated to Restoration, Empowerment, Advocacy and Mentoring (DREAM) Program, DCFS provides specialized direct services to children, youth, and their families impacted by child trafficking. The DREAM Program includes 41 staff who

provide specialized services to children and transitional-age youth impacted by human trafficking.

The following is a breakdown of those 41 staff and their roles:

- 1 - Assistant Regional Administrator
- 4 - Supervising Children's Social Workers
- 24 - DREAM Unit Children's Social Worker IIIs
- 3 - DREAM Court Liaison Social Workers who coordinate and facilitate Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meetings
- 3 - Children's Services Administrators
- 2 - Human Services Aides
- 4 - Intermediate Typist Clerks.

DCFS' DREAM Program includes four social work teams, each consisting of one Supervising Children's Social Worker and six Children's Social Worker IIIs, under the oversight of one Assistant Regional Administrator. DREAM staff receive specialized training on the dynamics of trafficking and on evidence-informed approaches to supporting survivors, including the Stages of Change model, harm reduction, trauma-responsive practice, understanding the impact of trauma and intergenerational trauma, interventions to address traumatic impacts, and relationship-based strategies that support youth in their healing and recovery.

Three Children's Social Workers are assigned as DREAM Court Liaisons and are responsible for coordinating and implementing Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meetings, as required by SB 855. MDT meetings are convened to support coordinated case assessment, case planning, service coordination, progress toward case plan goals, and discussion of potential solutions to challenges affecting youth with open cases in DREAM Court. During Fiscal Year 2024-25, DREAM Court Liaison social workers facilitated 831 MDT meetings. MDT participants include the assigned Children's Social Worker and/or Supervising Children's Social Worker, as well as representatives from DMH, DHS, DPH, LACOE, LAUSD, Probation, CLC, and Advocacy Services agencies.

Three DREAM Program CSA's support program administration in the following ways: (1) developing, executing, and monitoring contracts to provide services to children, youth, and parents impacted by child trafficking; (2) developing and updating DCFS child trafficking policies and protocols; (3) developing and providing child trafficking trainings to DCFS staff and community partners; (4) chairing the Los Angeles County Child Trafficking Steering Committee; (5) identifying funding to establish a strategic planning consultation services contract and managing the development of a Five-Year Strategic Plan to Prevent and Address Child Trafficking; (6) chairing, organizing, and implementing the Systems and Protocols Strategic Plan Implementation Committee; (7) gathering and providing DREAM Program data and written reports for the Board of Supervisors and the California Department of Social Services; (8) developing the Anti-Child Trafficking

Memorandum of Understanding, as required by SB 855; (9) updating and maintaining the child trafficking internal and external websites; and (10) organizing and implementing youth empowerment events, as well as the annual DREAM Retreat, where social workers and Advocacy partners convene to strengthen coordination, receive additional training, and address topics such as multidisciplinary teaming, survivor engagement, vicarious trauma, and compassion fatigue.

DCFS Individualized Incidental Restoration Funds Program (Allocated \$25,000 in SB 855 funds)

Youth impacted by child trafficking who enter the child welfare system often require a broad range of individualized services and supports to restore dignity and promote healing and growth. To address these needs, DCFS established the Restoration Funds Program to provide support for system-involved youth when needed services are not otherwise available through Medi-Cal, the Independent Living Program, or other child welfare funding sources.

Contracted Services

DCFS maintains a number of contracts to provide a range of services. The Department typically spends between \$1.8 million and \$2.5 million annually on these services. Historical data is provided below, with the understanding that Fiscal Year 2024-25 expenditures appear lower due to invoice processing delays for the Advocacy Services contract that are expected to be realized in the current fiscal year.

DCFS historically exceeds its allocation and must cover the difference with other funds. The chart below shows the Department's total expenditure summary compared with its allocation for Fiscal Years 2020-21 through 2024-25. From Fiscal Year 2020-21 through Fiscal Year 2024-25, DCFS exceeded its allocation by approximately \$5 million on average per year.

CSEC PAST FIVE YEARS ALLOCATON VS SPENDING									
			FY2024-2025	FY2023-2024	FY2022-2023	FY2021-2022	FY2020-2021		
	Funding Source		ST Allocation	ST Allocation	ST Allocation	ST Allocation	ST Allocation		
	SB855		\$2,773,707	\$2,774,874	\$2,774,504	\$2,747,084	\$2,832,216		
	SB794		\$343,855	\$206,096	\$210,236	\$214,561	\$208,241		
	Subtotal	(a)	\$3,117,562	\$2,980,970	\$2,984,740	\$2,961,645	\$3,040,457		
	Expenditure								
	Federal share		1,184,773	1,117,029	968,468	915,162	489,468		
	State share	(b)	3,117,562	2,980,970	2,984,740	2,961,645	3,040,457		
	County share		4,243,025	5,302,937	3,244,304	4,048,173	3,453,511		
	Subtotal		8,545,360	9,400,936	7,217,512	7,924,980	6,983,436		
	Expenditure Breakdown								
	DCFS STAFFING COSTS		7,197,949	7,588,421	4,933,186	5,764,150	4,538,984		
	CSEC Victim Services (Advocacy - Advocate and CSEC Survivor)		472,184	1,178,796	1,557,828	1,591,022	1,804,566		
	Individualized Incidental Restoration Fund		14,440	12,111	(2,275)	25,514	4,105		
	Childrens' Law Center		442,500	606,743	583,585	334,355	442,500		
	Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Exploited Children Human Traffic Training		314,100	-	-	-	-		
	Sheriff's Locate Team (OT to locate missing youth)		-	11,209	50,749	68,674	125,731		
	LAPD Locate Team (L.E. assistance in locating and recovering CSEC youth)		104,187	3,656	94,439	141,265	46,540		
	Probation Runaway Outreach Unit OT		-	-	-	-	7,398		
	Miscellaneous		-	-	-	-	13,612		
	Subtotal		8,545,360	9,400,936	7,217,512	7,924,980	6,983,436		

At this time, transferring CSEC funds to DYD is not a viable option because DCFS has historically exceeded its allocation, and any transfer of funds to DYD would result in either a reduction in DCFS services or increased costs to DCFS. DCFS is operating at a deficit at current spending levels, and the County is facing a tightening budget. There is currently no additional 2011 State Realignment funding budgeted to backfill a loss of SB 855 or SB 794 funding.

In addition, SB 855 funding is currently allocated to Advocacy Services contracts, Locate and Recover funding agreements with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), and CLC for specialized services in DREAM Court. The majority of SB 855 funds are dedicated to the new contracts planned to begin on July 15, 2026. At this time, it is difficult to determine how Advocacy Services expenditures will be affected, as Advocacy Services will be available to non-system-involved youth for the first time, which may substantially increase referrals. Contracted Advocacy Services providers may also subcontract with other agencies, if needed, to expand capacity and respond to referral demand.

If, at some point in the future, DCFS has excess SB 855 or SB 794 funding available, the Department could transfer funds to DYD for child trafficking prevention and intervention activities that are allowable under SB 855 and SB 794. The mechanism DCFS uses to fund initiatives with other departments through specific funding sources is a Direct Service Order (DSO). An MOU with DYD would need to be established, and DYD would need to invoice DCFS regularly and provide supporting documentation to ensure that the funds are used appropriately and effectively.

The services that DCFS provides directly and through contracted providers are critical to ensure that children and youth receive appropriate support from trained and experienced staff whose primary role is to deliver field-based services. In addition to these direct services, DCFS contracts with partner agencies to expand service capacity and provide specialized support for youth impacted by child trafficking.

DCFS DREAM Program Contracted Services

Advocacy Services for Youth Impacted by Child Trafficking

DCFS currently contracts with Optimist and Vista Del Mar to provide Advocacy Services. New contracts are expected to begin in July 2026 as a result of a new Request for Proposals. Upon Board approval, the contract term would run from July 15, 2026, through July 14, 2027, with four one-year extension options through July 14, 2031. The maximum annual contract amount is \$1.8 million across the two contracts, funded entirely by SB 855 State funds.

The new contracts would expand services to children and youth who are at risk of commercial exploitation but are not system involved. Beginning in July 2026, Advocacy Services providers would be able to accept referrals directly from schools, youth, parents, community-based organizations, law enforcement, and other County departments working with non-system-involved youth. Providers would continue serving youth involved with DCFS and Probation.

Advocacy Services contractors are paid an hourly rate for each hour of service provided, a flat rate for youth workshops, and reimbursement for direct expenses (e.g., items to meet youth needs and supplies for youth events). Through this contract, youth and families are connected to advocates, including survivor advocates and lived experience experts, who provide intensive support services to those at high risk of exploitation or who have experienced exploitation.

Through Advocacy Services and DMH, parents and caregivers of youth impacted by child trafficking receive support designed to increase their understanding of human trafficking, pathways to victimization, exploiter tactics, and strategies to reconnect with and support their child's healing and recovery. In many instances, parents and caregivers are also managing their own histories of abuse, neglect, substance use, mental health challenges, and domestic or community violence. As a result, the impact of trafficking often affects the entire family, and parents and caregivers may require support and services as well.

Through the Parent Empowerment Program, parents and caregivers receive education on intergenerational trauma, its effects, and approaches to addressing trauma within the family. The program also provides opportunities for parents and caregivers to support one another, build a support network, learn about available resources, and practice self-care as they navigate the recovery process.

The Advocacy Services program also provides crisis response for youth identified by law enforcement as victims of sex trafficking and in law enforcement custody. Once the DCFS Emergency Response Children's Social Worker receives a referral to investigate a report of child trafficking, DCFS contacts the Advocacy Services agency to provide a trauma-informed joint response. This response is intended to ensure that the child's immediate basic needs are addressed, that the child receives emotional support, and that ongoing Advocacy Services are offered to help stabilize the youth at home, in placement, or in alternative housing or treatment setting that can meet the youth's needs.

Through contracted Advocacy Services, advocates develop safety plans with youth, conduct strengths and needs assessments in collaboration with youth, and initiate intensive case management and advocacy services. Advocates work with each youth's Child and Family Team to coordinate resources, address identified needs, and support progress toward the youth's goals. Advocacy Services providers also participate in Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meetings with other key members of the youth's team to collaborate on ongoing assessment, case planning, and service delivery in support of case plan goals.

Restoration Funds

Restoration Funds are available to children and youth participating in the Advocacy Services program to support the following needs: (1) stabilizing crises and meeting the acute needs of youth who come to the attention of DCFS or Probation; (2) reducing the risk of re-exploitation by supporting normalizing opportunities, which may include removing tattoos associated with exploitation that create stigma and interfere with employment opportunities, repairing teeth damaged by inflicted injury, or providing appropriate clothing and self-care items; (3) providing educational support through tutoring, skill building, and related opportunities; (4) increasing employability through access to specialized vocational training opportunities, such as cosmetology school or computer technology training; (5) enhancing opportunities for success by providing child care so youth can participate meaningfully in school, employment, or services; and (6) supporting parenting youth by helping meet the basic needs of their children.

Youth Empowerment Committee

In partnership with DCFS and contracted Advocacy Services agencies, Youth Leaders facilitate monthly Youth Empowerment Committee meetings for youth survivors ages 14 to 24. The Youth Leaders developed the following purpose statement for the committee: "The Youth Empowerment Committee exists to empower, uplift, educate, and support youth. Through structured programming, leadership development, and community bonding, we aim to foster healing, growth, and resilience while building future advocate role models." Committee members also plan special events and workshops on topics that are important to youth, build community with one another and their adult supporters, and participate in experiences intended to promote joy and create positive memories. For a

menu of allowable billable activities under the Advocacy Services program, refer to Attachment A of this report.

Probation Advocacy Funds and DYD Collaboration

In late 2025, Probation designated \$250,000 of SB 794 funding to support five purchase orders executed by DYD to provide advocacy and supportive services to trafficked youth, as well as to support community-based provider engagement in the work of the CTLT in FY25-26. Below summarizes the funding allocations, processed invoice amounts, unspent funds and projected unspent funds based on the active outreach and strategizing with the five (5) community partners for this allocation.

DSO allocation	\$250,000.00
Contracted amount for 5 purchase orders	\$178,953.75
Invoices processed by DYD (but may not yet be paid out by AC) as of May 27, 2026	\$91,743.75
Current Unspent funds	\$87,210.00
Projected unspent funds	\$45,000 or less

Probation's goal is to support the Board's intent to maximize available funding for services supporting Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC). However, Probation has determined the statutory and fiscal requirements associated with SB 794 funding limit the County's ability to transfer these funds directly to DYD.

SB794 funds are claimable only by designated agencies, which in Los Angeles County are the Probation Department and the DCFS. As a result, SB794 funding cannot be directly allocated or transferred to DYD for claiming purposes. Any eligible expenditures incurred by DYD must be claimed through an authorized agency, such as Probation, in accordance with Federal Requirements.

The SB 794 reimbursement structure requires that eligible expenditures be funded with a 25% County Non-Federal Cost (NCC) match, while reimbursement is limited to 75 percent, consisting of: 50% Federal reimbursement; 25% State reimbursement and 25% County NCC match.

Although DYD may incur eligible expenditures and benefit from resulting services, Probation remains responsible for submitting reimbursement claims and ensuring compliance with all SB 794 requirements. Consequently, transferring unspent SB 794 funding to DYD without corresponding funding sources for the required County match would create an unfunded fiscal obligation for Probation. Accordingly, while Probation can continue to partner with DYD to support eligible services and facilitate reimbursement claims where permitted, SB 794 funds cannot be directly transferred to DYD.

Any expansion of DYD expenditure supported by SB 794 reimbursements would require:

1. Probation (or DCFS) to remain the claiming agency
2. Compliance with all SB 794 eligibility and claiming requirements; and
3. Identification of sufficient funding to support the required 25 percent County match.

Without an accompanying source of NCC match funding, the use of additional SB 794 reimbursement authority would result in an unfunded cost to Probation. Therefore, any Board directed expansion of services through DYD should include a corresponding strategy to fund the required County match, demonstrate the capacity to expend the funding and ensure compliance with State claiming requirements. This approach would allow the County to maximize reimbursement revenues while maintaining fiscal accountability and program compliance.

However, even with the reimbursement challenges outlined, Probation has recognized the contribution of DYD to secure the service contracts needed to provide advocacy services. Probation plans to complete another DSO for DYD once the Fiscal Year 26/27 Allocation has been determined.

DYD will continue to coordinate with other child trafficking programs and services in the county, including DCFS and Probation advocacy programs, DCFS and DMH Parent Empowerment Program and Public Health System Navigation services to coordinate referrals and work to build its current providers through trainings. This includes partnering with DCFS to leverage their contract with CAST to provide human trafficking training to DYD staff and DYD contracted providers to build their capacity to service and support youth impacted by human trafficking.

A discussion of opportunities to reduce dual-system involvement for youth impacted by trafficking by consolidating case management within the least restrictive, most supportive system. This should include a discussion of challenges and potential barriers to doing so.

DCFS, DYD and Probation recognize opportunities to reduce dual-system involvement for youth impacted by trafficking by strengthening coordinated case planning, expanding access to community-based advocacy and stabilization services, and, when appropriate, consolidating case management within the least restrictive, most supportive system that can safely meet the youth's needs. For youth whose primary needs are safety, stabilization, placement support, family support, and connection to services, a child welfare and community-based response may help reduce unnecessary justice-system involvement and promote continuity of care. At the same time, implementation may be affected by jurisdictional and legal considerations, court involvement, youth safety concerns, placement instability, and the need for clear cross-system communication and shared case planning among DCFS, Probation, DYD, and service providers.

DCFS' DREAM Program and Probation Succeeding through Achievement and Resilience (STAR) Court, the MDT structure, and contracted Advocacy Services support this type of multidisciplinary approach by providing intensive strengths-based support and case management services and creating coordinated forums for assessment, case planning, service connection, and stabilization. These mechanisms help identify needs early, align service plans across partners, and support continuity of care for youth whose circumstances may otherwise contribute to involvement in multiple systems.

DYD's prevention, early intervention, and diversion programs are supportive low-barrier systems with a goal to reduce system involvement for all youth. In addition to developing a referral process and/or inclusion of DYD in the Dream Program and STAR court MDT structure, DYD would need to build provider capacity, in terms of training, staff with trafficking expertise, including peer models, and additional funding to expand caseloads to meet the need of anticipated trafficked youth that may be referred directly from community partners, or diverted from DCFS or Probation systems. DYD's proposed approach and budget have been previously reported. Challenges include a lack of funding to support implementation.

Data on the number of youth identified as being impacted by trafficking who were referred to advocacy services over the past two years. The data should be disaggregated by contracted advocacy providers and reported separately by agency (including DCFS advocacy contracts and agencies receiving services through DYD purpose orders) and should not be combined across agencies.

The report should also include available outcome measures by agency, including youth engagement; the length of time advocacy services provided by each agency; indicators of youth stability following closure of advocacy services; and the reason for case closure, with all data reported separately for each agency. Outcome measures should prioritize indicators of stability, connection to care and reductions in system involvement.

As part of DCFS' contract compliance and continuous quality improvement processes, the DREAM Program Administration team completed a review of Advocacy Services provided by Vista Del Mar as of March 23, 2026, and by Optimist as of April 2, 2026. The review included case file reviews, analysis of youth and parent survey results regarding satisfaction with services received, feedback from Advocates and social workers, and administrative data analysis.

Since the start of the Advocacy Services contracts on October 1, 2023, DCFS has tracked referrals to Advocacy Services for youth identified as at risk of or impacted by trafficking.

From October 1, 2023, through April 22, 2026, the Advocacy Service agencies received a total of 540 referrals, including 359 referrals to Vista Del Mar and 181 referrals to Optimist.

For the most recent two-year period, from April 1, 2024, through April 22, 2026, DCFS and Probation made a combined 401 referrals to DCFS-contracted Advocacy Services providers, including 262 referrals to Vista Del Mar and 139 referrals to Optimist. This reflects an average of 17 referrals per month over that two-year period.

Because the narrative, tables, and outcome measures reflect different reporting cutoffs based on the timing and scope of the review, referral totals vary across this section and should be interpreted within the date range identified for each data source.

The following table summarizes provider-specific referral and survey data for the review periods shown and highlights available outcome measures reflecting youth engagement, stability, and service connection.

Vista Del Mar – Youth Engagement Surveys	
	Metric
Review period: 10/01/2023 to 02/24/2026	
Total youth referred to Advocacy Services	282
Youth stated achieving goals they wanted to achieve (Youth Survey)	72.2%
Youth stated receiving the help they needed (Youth Survey)	100%
Youth felt they had voice and choice of Advocacy goals	100%
Youth felt comfortable talking to their Advocate	92%
Youth felt heard and understood by their Advocate	100%
Parent had increased understanding of CSEC as a result of PEP	100%
Parents felt PEP helped increase their understanding, attitude, and beliefs about their child and CSEC.	100%
Optimist – Youth Engagement Surveys	
	Metric
Total youth referred to Advocacy Services	230
Youth stated achieving goals they wanted to achieve (Youth Survey)	67.7%
Youth stated receiving the help they needed (Youth Survey)	92%
Youth felt they had voice and choice of Advocacy goals	92%
Youth felt comfortable talking to Advocate	92.4%
Youth felt heard and understood by their Advocate	100%
Parent had increased understanding of CSEC as a result of PEP	100%
Parents felt PEP helped increase their understanding, attitude, and beliefs about their child and CSEC.	100%

Engagement and Reasons for Terminations of Advocacy Services

Optimist has received a total of 181 referrals from October 1, 2023, through April 22, 2026. Of those 181 referrals, 50% (91 youth) remain engaged in services. Forty-five youth have been engaged in long-term services for one year to 2.5 years. (Data source: Child Trafficking Platform (CTS), Bureau of Information Services, DCFS.)

Vista Del Mar has received a total of 359 referrals from October 1, 2024, through April 22, 2026. Of those 359 referrals, 32% (113 youth) remain engaged in services. Fifty youth have been engaged in long-term services for one year to 2.5 years. (Data source: Child Trafficking Platform (CTS), Bureau of Information Services, DCFS.)

Reasons for service terminations were reviewed for both contracted providers:

Terminations by Reason – Optimist	Percent
As of 4/22/26	
Completed Services	22%
No longer in County/State	24%
Not responsive to calls/outreach	29%
Ran Away	17%
Other	8%
Terminations by Reason – Vista Del Mar	Percent
As of 4/22/26	
Completed Services	23%
No longer in County/State	19%
Not responsive to calls/outreach	30%
Ran Away	16%
Other	12%

Parent Empowerment Program Evaluation

The Parent Empowerment Program (PEP) is a 10-week support and education program for parents and caregivers of children impacted by commercial sexual exploitation. Optimist and Vista Del Mar alternate responsibility for providing PEP on a quarterly basis. Since the contracts began on October 1, 2024, the providers have conducted 13 PEP cohorts with 140 parent participants. DMH and a DCFS Parent Partner provide the Spanish-language PEP classes, and ZOE International has provided several of the English-language PEP classes during the initial implementation of the new contracts.

According to PEP survey results, 100 percent of participating parents reported that PEP helped increase their understanding, attitudes, and beliefs regarding their child. When asked what they found most helpful about the program, parents reported improved understanding of how to show love to their child, communicate more effectively, and provide support. Parents also reported greater understanding of the complexities that may affect why a child does not leave an exploitative situation, as well as the impact of trauma and pathways to healing and recovery. One hundred percent of participating parents indicated that they would recommend PEP to others.

Advocacy Services Case Reviews

Fifteen case reviews were conducted. Of those fifteen cases, nine youth had achieved all identified goals. Achieved goals included attending school, graduating from high school, stabilizing in care, obtaining a driver's license, reunifying with family, reducing anxiety, participating in therapy, learning job skills, applying for jobs, receiving tattoo removal services, enrolling in college, and attending medical appointments. Six youth experienced challenges in achieving their goals, primarily due to running away and substance use.

Other contracts managed by the DREAM Program Administration include the following:

Dedicated to Restoration, Empowerment, Advocacy and Mentoring (DREAM) Court

In partnership with the Los Angeles Superior Court, County Counsel, and Children's Law Center (CLC), DCFS established a dedicated courtroom to serve youth impacted by trafficking in the dependency court system. By assigning a dedicated judicial officer and ensuring participation by County Counsel, CLC attorneys, and DCFS staff with child-trafficking expertise, DREAM Court has promoted greater specialization, consistency in practice, and improved case planning.

Cases heard in DREAM Court include Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meetings and more frequent court hearings. The MDT serves as a case-planning forum with representatives from DCFS, DMH, DHS, Los Angeles Unified School District, child advocates, the CLC attorney, County Counsel, and other partners to develop a therapeutic plan responsive to the child's needs. An individualized MDT action plan is developed and shared with team members and the judicial officer. MDT meetings are held two weeks prior to the scheduled hearing, or more frequently as needed.

SB 855 funding for DREAM Court supports CLC in covering costs associated with serving youth impacted by commercial sexual exploitation. This funding has enabled CLC attorneys to maintain reduced caseloads, participate in MDT meetings, increase availability to the children they represent, conduct resource mapping, and develop a data-tracking system to monitor the status of youth served through DREAM Court.

A discussion of the outcomes that are tracked following locate-and-recovery operations for missing young people, including service connections, placement stability and repeat missing episodes. This should also include recommendations on how youth voices can be incorporated into assessing the effectiveness of recovery interventions.

A review of the Local MOUs with LASD and LAPD to determine whether these services continue to be necessary, including options for shifting this initiative and funding to an alternative model while maintaining safety and expanding community-based, relationship-centered approaches to engagement and recovery.

Under Welfare and Institutions Code section 16501.35, DCFS and Probation are required to develop protocols to make diligent efforts to locate missing youth identified as commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and nonminor dependents (NMDs). Many of these youth fall within the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). To support after-hours recovery efforts, DCFS and Probation collaborate with LASD and LAPD through a Locate and Recover Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to assist in locating and recovering missing youth impacted by exploitation.

Both DCFS and Probation consider the MOU necessary because law enforcement has access to specialized tools, technology, and investigative methods used to locate missing individuals. These resources may include the ability to ping cell phones, conduct facial-recognition searches of publicly available internet content, identify locations based on available images, review online activity, and rapidly disseminate information regarding a missing child. These tools, combined with traditional investigative methods, enhance the effectiveness of search efforts. The MOU also supports coordination with law enforcement agencies that may have limited capacity and, in some cases, helps ensure the safety of DCFS social workers and Deputy Probation Officers who enter the field to recover missing youth. In certain recovery efforts, social workers may encounter individuals who are armed or otherwise pose a safety risk, making law enforcement support critical to safe field response.

At this time, DCFS and Probation are not recommending a specific alternative model to replace the current Locate and Recover MOUs with LASD and LAPD. The departments will continue to explore opportunities to strengthen community-based, relationship-centered approaches to engagement and recovery, while maintaining appropriate safety supports for youth and staff.

Since May 22, 2024, 73 referrals were made under the LASD MOU. As of February 24, 2026, 62% of these youth have been located, including 16 by LASD, 14 by DCFS, 6 who returned voluntarily, and 9 recovered by other law enforcement agencies. The remaining 28 youth, representing 38% of referrals, remained absent from care. Under the LAPD MOU, 43 referrals were received, including 40 from DCFS and

3 from Probation. Of those referrals, 74% (32 youth) have been located, while 26% (11 youth) remained absent from care.

DCFS social workers in the Runaway Outreach Unit (ROU) work closely with LASD and LAPD to locate and recover missing youth impacted by exploitation. When youth run away from their placement or residence, secondary Children's Social Workers from the ROU are assigned to support diligent search efforts. The ROU currently includes one Children's Services Administrator I supervising eight Children's Social Workers. The unit focuses on safety, recovery, placement stabilization, and prevention of further exploitation. The ROU maintains a database of missing youth and documents each runaway episode and return to care. Each DCFS office also has a liaison who tracks these cases and is notified when youth leave their placement and when they return to care. In addition, the ROU tracks referrals submitted for missing youth and cross-reports those referrals to LAPD and/or LASD to request law enforcement assistance in locating and recovering missing commercially sexually exploited children, under the applicable MOUs.

Following recovery, stabilization efforts include debriefing with the youth to better understand the factors contributing to the runaway episode and to identify strategies to address underlying needs. Harm reduction approaches, safety planning, and connection to concrete supports are used to promote stabilization and reduce the risk of future missing episodes.

To incorporate youth feedback on the effectiveness of recovery efforts, DCFS, Probation, and Survivor Leaders could partner to develop youth listening sessions that compensate participants for their time and feedback. Individual interviews could also be offered for youth who prefer not to participate in a group setting. In addition, surveys may serve as another useful mechanism for gathering feedback, particularly when paired with an incentive. The Youth Empowerment Committee may also provide an existing forum in which this topic could be discussed.

Human Trafficking Training Contract with Cast

DCFS established a contract with Cast to provide free training to community members and partners, County departments, service providers, community-based organizations, foster care providers, schools, health-sector partners, faith-based partners, law enforcement partners, parents, and youth. The primary purpose of these trainings is to increase awareness and understanding of human trafficking, strengthen prevention efforts, and provide participants with evidence-informed practices and frameworks for working effectively with children, youth, and families impacted by trafficking.

DYD plans to utilize the Cast contract to provide human trafficking training to DYD staff and DYD-contracted providers in order to strengthen their capacity to serve and support youth impacted by human trafficking.

A plan detailing how Probation and DCFS 241.1 units will communicate all suspected or identified youth at risk of, or experiencing, Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) to dedicated units in a timely manner for assessment and referral to advocacy services. The plan should include participation and coordination across multidisciplinary teams and departments, including DYD, the Probation 241.1 unit participating in the CTU weekly MDTs when dual-jurisdiction youth are being discussed, and a CTU Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) participating in weekly MDT when dual-jurisdiction youth are discussed, in order to collaborate on case planning, jurisdictional considerations and service coordination.

DCFS and Probation recognize the importance of timely communication across 241.1 units, multi-disciplinary teams, and partner departments to support assessment, case planning, and referral to advocacy services for dual status youth. The 241.1 protocol is currently being enhanced and is in process of being finalized in collaboration with the Court, DCFS and Probation. The updated structure allows for opportunities to identify potential candidates for assessment and further investigation for potential exposure to CSE, which will then determine that level of intervention required to meet the individual needs of the youth. After referrals are made to appropriate advocacy agencies, additional MDTs will include any supporting adults and advocates who can participate in decision making and support the youth's voice within the MDT process.

A plan that identifies alternatives to detention for youth identified as victims of CSE who have misdemeanor charges or who are currently detained on warrants or probation violations.

- i. This should include referrals for all identified youth to appropriate community advocacy agencies for services and support.
- ii. It should also outline a process for reviewing currently detained cases to determine whether release and where appropriate termination of probation jurisdiction is warranted.
- iii. It should address both new or returning cases by establishing clear alternatives-to-detention options, as well as the review of existing detained cases for potential release and termination of probation supervision.

Probation continues to explore alternatives to detention through ongoing depopulation efforts department wide. When home is appropriate, there is consideration given to in-home supports and services needed to increase the chances of the youth's success. DYD has prioritized referrals to the Reentry Action for Youth Program for CSE youth and during consultation and MDT processes, youth who may be able to return to DCFS care are afforded that opportunity. As needs are identified, Probation is committed to utilizing advocacy agencies and increasing referrals.

Probation is developing a plan within the Child Trafficking Unit, to review currently detained cases on a more frequent basis in order to find opportunities to intervene and

provide additional information to the court when release or termination is appropriate. This would be the first step in creating an ongoing process to ensure all detention alternatives are explored and utilizing partner agencies such as DYD to explore community options. This plan would also have to consider potential barriers, which often include ensuring that services and support would remain available to any youth no longer under Probation's and the court's jurisdiction, and safe spaces for a youth to reside if a parent and/or guardian are not available.

If you have any questions, please contact Chief Deputy Robert Arcos at (213) 305-4707 or Robert.Arcos@probation.lacounty.gov.

GVR:RA:GA:sl

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Director Department of Youth Development
Department of Children and Family Services
Justice Deputies



Advocacy Services for Children and Youth Impacted by Child Trafficking Billable Activities

Billable Activities	General Description (includes, but not necessarily limited to):
First Responder Protocol Response	Provide humanitarian bag, address immediate basic needs of youth, engage youth, build rapport, crisis safety planning, crisis multi-disciplinary team meeting, FRP Intake Form
Case Management/Planning	Engaging, teaming, planning, documenting and tracking around the contractual deliverables: FRP Intake Form/72-hr. Safety Plan Intake -Strengths/Needs Assessment Safety Plan Advocacy Plans Extension Request Restoration Funds Request Six Month Review Termination Report
Contacts with Youth and Caregiver/Parent (if applicable)	Face to face and telephonic/social media contacts with the youth to: Build rapport and provide emotional support; Provide prevention or intervention curriculum; Coach youth around knowledge/skills/abilities to become self-sufficient and integrated/connected to community and supportive/positive relationships in the community; Discuss progress/successes/challenges of Advocacy Plan goals and adapt plan as needed to find solutions; Discuss Safety Plan (ongoing worries, concerns and interventions to help youth feel safe); Provide opportunities, options and support to youth to build youth resiliency; Victim Witness Testimony Support; Appointments as needed
Parent Advocacy	Co-facilitate Parent Empowerment Program workshops, (workshops are based on a flat rate of \$300 per workshop), other CSEC related workshops, link parents to resources, provide information to help educate and equip parents to support their child, attend CFTs
Survivor Advocacy	Co-facilitate workshops, engage and build rapport with youth to stabilize, support youth in fulfilling Advocacy Plan goals, assist with safety planning, assist with youth empowerment events, victim witness testimony support
Transportation of Youth	Provide direct transportation services for youth as needed to support youth's fulfillment of Advocacy Plan goals. Can only bill for



Advocacy Services for Children and Youth Impacted by Child Trafficking Billable Activities

	transportation when the youth is in the car with the Contractor.
Event Coordination and Implementation	Planning, coordinating, and implementing monthly empowerment activities
Consultation with Team and Collaterals	Collaborate, communicate and coordinate with MDT and CFT members around assessment of strengths, needs, case planning, safety planning, and service implementation.
Clinical Supervision	Monthly group and individual clinical supervision
Advocacy Roundtable Meetings	Meet to discuss Continuous Quality Improvement, data-informed decision making, present case reviews, provide additional training and co-learning opportunities, engage in collaborative problem solving; share updated policies/procedures; track program goals and outcomes.
County Mandated Trainings	County mandated trainings are billed by group, not by individual.
Empowerment Activity Participation	Participation in the implementation of empowerment activities
Participation in MDT and CFT Meetings	Participation in team meetings to develop case plans that address the needs of the youth, the caregiver, and parent (if applicable) in order to achieve improved safety, permanency, well-being and self-sufficiency outcomes for youth
Referral and Linkage to Services/Supports in the community	Contacts to agencies and supports in the community and school in order to verify the appropriateness of a service/support in order to link a child/youth/caregiver to needed services/supports (i.e., tutoring, sports club, YMCA groups, camps, recreational activities, volunteer opportunities, support groups, school clubs, spiritual/cultural groups, classes at community colleges/local educational institutions, library programs, Parks and Recreation programs, church groups, etc)
Victim Witness Testimony Support	Participate in VWT safety planning meetings; provide support to youth before, during and after hearings against trafficker as needed.

NOTE: Bill in 15 minute increments: .15 (15 minutes), .30 (1/2 hour), .45 (45 minutes), 1.0 (one hour)



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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GUILLERMO VIERA ROSA
Chief Probation Officer

REVISED

July 14, 2026

TO: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Chair Pro Tem
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Guillermo Viera Rosa
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **REPORT BACK – SUPPORTING PROBATION AND FOSTER YOUTH
IMPACTED BY TRAFFICKING WITH COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORTS
(ITEM NO. 22, AGENDA OF APRIL 7, 2026)**

On April 7, 2026, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Probation Officer, the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Department of Youth Development (DYD) to report back at 15, 30, 60, and 90-days.

This report provides Probation's 90-day report-back information, as directed and summarized below:

Whether Probation will be able to fill the Child Trafficking Unit's (CTU) five (5) vacant position with knowledgeable staff by the end of this fiscal year and in FY 2026-27. The report back should identify the bureau from which the assigned staff filling vacancies will be sourced, their current assignments, and their level of knowledge and experience related to child trafficking and trauma-informed approaches, and a proposed timeline for having the unit fully staffed. The report back should also indicate that staff serving in the CTU should not be deployed to camps and halls unless Probation is simultaneously entering into a Memoranda of Understanding with other departments or contracts with community-based services to provide services in the alternative.

This report back should include a discussion of how the specific functions of the CTU can be better supported while Probation works to fill vacant positions. This plan should clearly

address filing positions; supervision; Succeeding Through Achievement and Resilience (STAR) Court liaison duties; First Responder Protocol (FRP) responsibilities as outlined in the County Memoranda of Agreement (MOA); Victim/Witness testimony support as outlined in the County MOA; efforts to locate missing youth who are at risk of or identified as trafficking victims as outlined in the Location MOUs with Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department, and DCFS; assessments; MDT roles and responsibilities; participation in the weekly DCFS MDT; and referrals to advocacy agencies.

The Probation Department remains fully committed to ensuring the continued operation of the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Unit (CTU) and providing comprehensive support to youth impacted by sexual exploitation. As of the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1, 2026, the CTU is appropriately staffed to carry out the unit's specialized responsibilities and provide the level of service required for this vulnerable population.

The CTU currently consists of one (1) Supervising Deputy Probation Officer (SDPO), six (6) Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs), and one (1) Probation Assistant. The unit also receives oversight from a director and administrative support from a Program Analyst. In addition, one (1) retired returnee Deputy Probation Officer joined the unit on a 120-day appointment effective July 6, 2026, further strengthening the unit's capacity.

The assigned SDPO possesses the experience, knowledge, and specialized training necessary to support the Director and successfully onboard the newly assigned deputies. Of the six (6) deputies currently assigned to the CTU, one (1) has served in the unit for several years, while the remaining five (5) joined the unit in April and May 2026. One (1) deputy returned to the unit following approved leave, while the remaining four (4) deputies bring extensive juvenile probation experience from residential placement services, Placement Community Transition Services, Camp Community Transition Services, and Secure Youth Treatment Facility transition operations. Collectively, these deputies have also completed training in Motivational Interviewing and Trauma-Informed Care.

To prepare staff for the specialized nature of CTU assignments, the newly assigned deputies have participated in targeted training, including:

- Introduction to Human Trafficking of Children and Youth 101
- Human Trafficking 201
- Exploitation of Males: Factors of Resiliency for Male Survivors of Exploitation
- Breaking Barriers: Addressing Disability and Human Trafficking of Youth People

The Department also plans to enroll all CTU deputies in advanced training courses, including:

- A Pathway to Healing: Using a Harm Reduction Approach to Navigate Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Each Supervisor

July 14, 2026

Page 3 of 3

- Vicarious Trauma and Self Care for Direct Service Providers: Supporting Youth involved in Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Overlooked: Intersections of Gender Identity, Sexuality and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
- Advanced Skill Building Strategies for Supporting Sexual Exploited Children
- “Meet me where I am” Utilizing the Stages of Change to Support Youth impacted by Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Since joining the unit, the newly assigned deputies have worked closely with experienced CTU staff to develop the specialized knowledge, sensitivity, and trauma-informed approach necessary to effectively serve this population. Caseload assignments have been implemented thoughtfully and incrementally to ensure that youth continue to receive appropriate levels of support while deputies build experience within the unit.

In addition to the staffing assigned to the CTU, a former CTU deputy is currently assigned to Campus Vernon Kilpatrick (CVK), where she continues to provide valuable support to youth impacted by sexual exploitation who are in custody. Her experience has been instrumental in maintaining communication and coordination among field staff, advocacy organizations, and County partners.

It should also be noted that both the CTU Probation Assistant and the retired returnee Deputy Probation Officer have previous experience working within the CTU and are providing valuable operational support and mentorship as the newly assigned deputies continue their specialized training.

With the leadership of the experienced SDPO, continued oversight from the Director and management team, and the addition of trained and dedicated staff, the Department is confident in its ability to resume comprehensive assessments of youth for current or prior exposure to commercial sexual exploitation. The Department also remains committed to its ongoing participation and support of STAR Court, the First Responder Protocol (FRP), the Missing/Locate Program, and other collaborative efforts designed to protect and serve youth who have experienced or are at risk of sexual exploitation.

If you have any questions, please contact Chief Deputy Robert Arcos at (213) 305-4707 or Robert.Arcos@probation.lacounty.gov.

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