

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## Family and Social Services

FESIA A. DAVENPORT  
Chief Executive Officer



**DATE:** Wednesday, September 22, 2021  
**TIME:** 1:30 PM

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

**Teleconference Call-In Number: (323) 776-6996/ Conference ID: 599 009 090#**  
**[MS Teams Meeting Link](#) (Ctrl + click to follow link)**

### **AGENDA**

Members of the Public may address agenda item. Two (2) minutes are allowed for each item.

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Presentation/Discussion Items:**
  - a. **Office of Child Protection/ Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)/ Department of Mental Health/ Probation:** Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) Update.
  - b. **DCFS/ Probation / Sheriff's Department:** Los Angeles County Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Integrated Leadership Team.
- III. **Informational Items:**
  - a. **Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services:** Request Approval to Extend the Existing Transportation Agreement with Hopskipdrive, Inc. for Provision of Rides to Foster Youth to Their Schools of Origin.
- IV. Items continued from a previous meeting of the Board of Supervisors or from a previous FSS Agenda Review meeting.
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Adjournment



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT


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(562) 940-2501



**ADOLFO GONZALES**  
Chief Probation Officer

October 5, 2021

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

FROM: Adolfo Gonzales   
Chief Probation Officer  
CSEC Integrated Leadership Team

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

The last ILT report to the Board was provided on June 8, 2021. The current ILT report will cover the following updates:

- 1) Law Enforcement First Responder Protocol (FRP),
- 2) Advocacy Services,
- 3) Victim Witness Testimony Protocol, and
- 4) Housing for Children and Youth Impacted by CSEC

## **I. LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRST RESPONDER PROTOCOL**

The FRP continues to serve as a crucial tool that guides law enforcement, County agencies, and community-based advocates on appropriate steps to take within the first 72-hours of interfacing with an identified or suspected commercially sexually exploited child, utilizing a victim-centered, multi-agency response model.

The protocol reflects Los Angeles County's commitment to addressing the trauma experienced by commercially sexually exploited children who have been exposed to severe violence, threats, or physical assaults as victims of child abuse and human trafficking, rather than criminalizing them as delinquents. Parties to the FRP Agreement are the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Long Beach Police Department (LBPd), Pomona, Inglewood, and

***Rebuild Lives and Provide for Healthier and Safer Communities***

Hawthorne Police Departments, County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), County of Los Angeles Probation Department (Probation), and the County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services (DHS).

Since implementation of the protocol on August 14, 2014 through August 31, 2021, there have been a total of 1,047 commercially sexually exploited children who have been recovered, 34 of whom were recovered since the last ILT report in June 2021. Of the 34 youth recovered since the last report, 19 were commercially sexually exploited children who had an open DCFS case, six (6) were residents from outside of the County of Los Angeles, five (5) were newly identified, and four (4) had prior DCFS history.

In preparation for the Super Bowl 2022 which takes place in the County of Los Angeles, LASD, LAPD, the Inglewood Police Department, DCFS, and Probation are developing plans to mobilize the FRP. This preparation includes collaborative efforts to coordinate anti-human trafficking operations that prevent and address the expected increase of trafficking activity around this major sporting event. DCFS's Multi-Agency Response Team will be strategically deployed to provide an immediate tactical response.

## **II. ADVOCACY SERVICES**

On September 24, 2019, DCFS, through a Request for Proposal (RFP), awarded advocacy contracts to advocacy agencies Saving Innocence and ZOE International in order to increase capacity and expand services to those who are not only victims of CSEC, but also to those who are at-risk of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE). In addition, the contract was expanded to provide services to Non-Minor Dependent (NMD) Youth (18-21 years-old) who are either at-risk or victims of CSE. Since the start of the new contract, there have been 465 CSEC Advocacy Referrals made, with an average of 20 referrals completed each month from October 1, 2019, through August 30, 2021. There are 189 active cases as of August 30, 2021.

The advocacy agencies continue to work as critical members of the multi-disciplinary team with a specific aim to support youth through a relationship-based model that engages and builds trust with youth over time. This approach is youth-centered, trauma-informed and strength-based, which helps youth feel understood and empowered. The results of the Youth Satisfaction Surveys continue to show positive reviews. Youth comments indicate that they enjoy the relationships with their advocates; specifically, how the advocates help them achieve their goals and are always there when they need them.

The advocacy agencies continue to facilitate intervention workshops, independent living skills and career development workshops, and support groups. In October 2021, County partners, along with CSEC advocacy agencies, the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), and survivor leaders will host Youth Empowerment Month. This year, Youth Empowerment Month will include a hybrid of virtual and in-person empowerment events to bring youth together once again to be inspired, motivated, and to simply have fun and feel connected to their network of supportive survivor leaders and adult allies.

DCFS is exercising the option to extend a second year of CSEC Advocacy Services and has amended the contract to include a CSEC Prevention Services pilot component that is set to launch on September 24, 2021. Prevention Services will allow the CSEC Advocacy Services contracted providers, Saving Innocence and ZOE International, to provide services to children who are referred to the Child Protection Hotline and assessed to be at-risk of commercial sexual exploitation, but do not rise to the level of requiring an open DCFS case. Prevention services will include a strengths and needs assessment, implementation of an advocacy plan to address the priority needs of the child and family, CSEC prevention and intervention workshops for youth and their parents, parent advocacy, as-needed survivor advocacy, access to restoration funding to support the achievement of goals, youth empowerment activities, and linkage to community based services and supports that strengthen protective factors and build resiliency with both youth and their families. A Prevention Summit with the advocacy agencies is scheduled for September 24, 2021, to officially kick-off the launch of the CSEC Prevention Program.

The CSEC Advocacy Services contract budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 has been approved for a total of \$2,175,000, with \$1,800,000 of the total funded through SB 855 CSEC funding, and \$375,000 of the total funded through the Healthier Families, Stronger Communities, and Thriving Children (HST) funds. Of the \$375,000 funded through HST funds, \$200,000 is allocated towards CSEC Advocacy intervention services and \$175,000 is allocated towards the new prevention services pilot program. The prevention services pilot program will include providing up to one full year of prevention services for approximately 30 youth and their parents.

In order to assess the impact of CSEC Prevention Services, the following data will be collected and analyzed: 1) Number and percentage of prevention youth who received and did not receive a substantiated allegation of exploitation within six (6) months, 12 months, and 18 months of the referral date; 2) Average length of time of services provided to referred youth; 3) Reason for termination of services, and 4) Number and percent of referred families that achieved some or all of their Advocacy Plan goals.

### **III. VICTIM WITNESS TESTIMONY PROTOCOL (VWTP)**

As reported in the last ILT report on June 2021, the VWTP launched on May 3, 2021 as a pilot for the next 6-9 months, during which time agency partners will continue to meet regularly to identify any gaps, challenges and lessons learned from implementing the protocol, and brainstorm solutions.

During the June 2021 ILT report to the Board, Supervisor Mitchell requested that the District Attorney's Office provide a report to address resources that are available and utilized to ensure that victims providing testimony are able to do so safely, along with alternatives that are being used, or can be used, in lieu of having a victim of CSE as a witness. The DA's office provided the following information for inclusion in this report:

The District Attorney's Office remains committed to a comprehensive approach to combating human sex trafficking and protecting the rights of victims that have been exploited. The prosecutors assigned to the Human Sex Trafficking Section (HSTS) have extensive experience in prosecuting cases involving vulnerable victims. They follow a victim-centered approach and use trauma-informed language to ensure victims are not further traumatized during the criminal process. Victims of sex trafficking are treated with the utmost care, concern, and professionalism. To prepare victims to testify, HSTS prosecutors collaborate with victim advocates, social workers, probation officers and attorneys representing victims to minimize the impact on the victims.

The Human Sex Trafficking Section (HSTS) - Victim Services Representative (VSR) provides services to sex trafficking and labor trafficking victims in filed criminal cases and cases that are declined for filing. When a case is filed or declined for filing, the VSR outreaches to the victim and their families and provides an overview of the criminal case, explains why the criminal case was declined, answers criminal justice related questions, and advises them of assistance that is available to them as a victim of a crime. The VSR can assist victims in applying to the California Victim Compensation Board for benefits such as mental health therapy, human trafficking wage compensation, relocation, and more.

The VSR can also connect victims to partner agencies for other resources such as immigration assistance, case management, and support groups. While the criminal case is ongoing, the VSR is available to provide updates on the criminal case, answer any questions about the case, discuss the concerns a victim may have about testifying, and provide court support for any victim interviews or court hearings. Once a case is completed, the VSR assists victims in providing a victim impact statement, completing a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation 1707 form so that the victim can be updated on the defendant's sentence, and any resources to assist the victim become a survivor.

In very limited cases, victims are permitted to testify via closed circuit television if a court makes certain findings. HSTS prosecutors are familiar with the circumstances allowing for close circuit testimony and will request that the court make the required findings. In addition, when a case can be proven against a trafficker without the testimony of the victim and the victim expresses concerns about testifying, HSTS prosecutors will seek to prove the case without the victim.

### **HOUSING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IMPACTED BY COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION UPDATE**

Ongoing efforts to expand housing options for youth impacted by CSE continue. Since the last report to the Board, two new homes have become available for youth impacted by CSE, and DCFS is preparing to release a Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) for both Foster Family Agency Emergency Shelter Care Beds and Short-Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTPs).

ZOE Home for Youth received their provisional STRTP licensure on August 4, 2021. ZOE Home for Youth license allows for the care of DCFS and Probation female youth up to the age of 18 years-old, and who have been impacted by commercial sexual exploitation. DCFS has placed first youth at ZOE Home for Youth via a Special Placement process, which is utilized for facilities that do not have a contract with DCFS, but have been identified as a program that will meet the child's special and unique needs has received licensure to provide residential care.

On August 23, 2021, the County of Los Angeles, through DCFS, entered in to a Placement Agreement with ZOE Home for Youth 2021. ZOE Home for Youth accepted their first child into their home on that date.

The Placement Agreement requires that the ZOE Home for Youth facilities must provide specific services to improve the child's safety, permanency and well-being and that incidents are reported through the web-based Incident Tracking System (iTrack).

The Short-Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP) Administrator for ZOE Home for Youth is now attending Interagency Placement Committee (IPC) meetings. The IPC is a specialized multi-agency team which serves to support children/youth/NMDs with significant behavioral, emotional, medical and/or developmental needs through a screening process whereby a child/youth/NMD's treatment and placement needs are presented. During IPC case presentations, ZOE's STRTP Administrator will assess commercially sexually exploited children to determine if the agency would be an appropriate placement match. At the time of this report, ZOE Home for Youth has identified a second youth whom they feel would be a good match and will be advocating to have this second youth placed with them.

DCFS is continuing to support ZOE Home for Youth in establishing a contract with the County of Los Angeles. ZOE Home for Youth received their Rate Letter on September 1, 2021 and submitted it to DCFS. DCFS is currently in the process of circulating the contract for signatures and anticipates this will be completed by October 15, 2021.

ZOE Home for Youth does not yet have a contract with Department of Mental Health (DMH) to provide intensive mental health services. Once ZOE Home for Youth's contract with DCFS is finalized, DMH will move forward to establish the County contract for intensive mental health services, the process of which can take approximately one year. In the meantime, ZOE, DMH, DCFS, and Probation will collaborate to work towards ensuring that youth who are a good match for ZOE Home for Youth will have access to the appropriate mental health services and supports that are needed to address the needs of the youth.

Additionally, Virtuous Woman has opened a second six (6)-bed STRTP facility named Home of Hope #2 which received its licensure on July 14, 2021. This facility will be added to the existing County contract through a written Change Notice that is expected to be executed by September 15th, 2021. In the meantime, youth have been placed at

this new facility utilizing the Special Placement process that was described earlier in this report.

Intensive Services Foster Care for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (ISFC-CSEC):

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

DCFS, DMH, and Probation have been working with the Office of Child Protection (OCP) to prepare and release a Request for Proposal to establish a contract(s) for an Intensive Services Foster Care Program for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (ISFC-CSEC) specifically designed for children and youth impacted by CSE. Reviews of the final draft for the Statement of Work and Contract have been completed. It is estimated that the RFP for ISFC-CSEC will be released in September 2021.

DCFS is working towards releasing a Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) to new and existing contracted providers to establish new contracts for Foster Family Agency Emergency Shelter Care beds and STRTPs focused on providing programming for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth. Below is the RFSQ Re-opening timeline for Specialized Populations tentative (last updated on August 10, 2021):

<b>Milestone Description</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Stakeholder Conferences held to receive feedback on concept papers for FFA Emergency Shelter Care and STRTP CSEC.	7/28/2021	7/29/2021	Completed
Stakeholder Questions and Answers & Post	8/2/2021	8/27/2021	Completed
County Workgroups to Finalize Concept Papers	8/23/2021	9/10/2021	3 weeks
Develop Program Requirements for Plans of Operation and Program Statements	9/20/2021	9/30/2021	2 weeks
RFSQ Reopening Release (Addendum)	12/6/2021	12/6/2021	1 Day
CAD Development Process (Solicitation Requirements Review, Prospective Contractors Conference, and Q/A)	12/6/2021	2/25/2022	12 weeks
SOQ Submission Period	2/28/2022	3/25/2022	4 weeks
CAD Development and Out of Home Care Development Review Process	3/28/2022	12/30/2022	9 Months
<b>Target Contract Start Date</b>	<b>1/1/2023</b>	<b>1/1/2023</b>	<b>1 Day</b>

The ILT will provide the following updates in the next report:

- FRP Recoveries
- CSEC Advocacy Services referrals and engagement activities;
- Training;
- Safe Youth Zone deliverables;
- Victim Witness Testimony protocol;
- Housing, and
- HST Budget revision recommendations;

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

AG:FC:PV:mg

c: Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer  
Celia Zavala, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Alex Villanueva, Sheriff, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Rodrigo Castro-Silva, County Counsel  
Bobby Cagle, Director, Department of Children and Family Services  
Christina R. Ghaly, Director, Department of Health Services  
Children's & Justice Deputies  
CSEC ILT Members



October 5, 2021

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST APPROVAL TO EXTEND THE EXISTING TRANSPORTATION  
AGREEMENT WITH HOPSKIPDRIVE, INC. FOR PROVISION OF RIDES TO FOSTER  
YOUTH TO THEIR SCHOOLS OF ORIGIN**

**(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

The County of Los Angeles Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) seeks Board approval to extend the agreement with HopSkipDrive, Inc. for two (2) additional years for the provision of rides to foster youth to their schools of origin. This contract with HopSkipDrive, Inc., number 122236, is due to expire on June 30, 2022. WDACS will continue to administer the existing contract and will work with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to set a date to transfer the contract. During the extension period, DCFS will issue a solicitation for a new provider beginning July 2024 and will administer the contract for the successful proposer.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Delegate authority to the Acting Director of WDACS, or his designee, to extend the term and provisions of the transportation agreement, No. 122236, with HopSkipDrive, Inc. for an additional two (2) years through June 30, 2024. Annual funding amounts will be determined as outlined in the Interagency Agreements signed with the school districts.
2. Delegate authority to the Acting Director of WDACS, or his designee, to execute amendments with the contractor to 1) add new, relevant, or updated federal, state and/or county terms, 2) increase the rates for payment, and 3) increase or decrease the Payment and Maximum Obligation based on the annual calculations as determined through the Interagency Agreements with the school districts.

## **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

When foster youth are removed from their home or change placements, they are also often forced to change schools, which adversely impacts their academic growth. To prevent this negative outcome, in 2015 President Obama passed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which requires school districts and child welfare agencies to collaborate to ensure school stability for foster youth by creating agreements to provide and pay for transportation for these youth to attend their schools of origin upon removal from their homes or foster care placements.

In Los Angeles County, at the direction of the Board of Supervisors, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), DCFS, WDACS, and 40 of the 80 separate school districts, which serve over 80% of the County's foster youth, have signed interagency agreements to establish procedures to provide and fund the necessary transportation for foster youth to be able to remain in their schools of origin. This agreement incorporates multiple transportation options for foster youth to their schools of origin, including Education Travel Reimbursements, Metropolitan Transit Authority TAP Cards, utilizing/modifying existing school bus routes, and rides by a private vendor car service.

To help meet the requirements of ESSA, HopSkipDrive, Inc. was procured to provide private car service in 2017 for cases when none of the other transportation options identified above are available to transport the youth to their schools of origin. For example, HopSkipDrive, Inc. can provide next-day service to and from the school of origin, making it a good option for stop-gap transportation until a long-term method of transportation plan is established for the youth.

HopSkipDrive, Inc. has provided over 132,077 rides to 1,525 foster youth between December 2017 and June 2021. In an [Outcome Report on the Foster Youth School Stability Pilot](#) submitted to the Board in August 2019, a survey found that DCFS, Los Angeles County Office of Education Foster Youth Services, and school district staff identified the biggest success of the school stability transportation program was that it allowed youth to have continued access to their school of origin during a time of great upheaval. For example, one (1) youth used the private vendor car service to attend morning remedial classes that enabled her to graduate high school with honors. This and many similar anecdotes have been celebrated in the field. Furthermore, research has demonstrated that approximately 36% of foster youth who exit care become homeless<sup>1</sup> and that multiple school changes is a significant predictor of whether foster youth will

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<sup>1</sup> Dworsky, A., Napolitano, L., & Courtney, M. (2013). Homelessness during the transition from foster care to adulthood. *American Journal of Public Health*, 103, 318-323.

become homeless upon exiting from foster care.<sup>2</sup> Increasing school stability improves educational outcomes<sup>3</sup> for youth in foster care and makes it more likely for children to develop long-term relationships<sup>4</sup> with teachers or peers at a time that is crucial to have supportive permanent connections with adults for the benefit of youth mental health and well-being.

This contract with HopSkipDrive, Inc., number 122236, is due to expire on June 30, 2022. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting closure of school facilities, this service was not utilized for approximately one (1) year, between March 2020 and March 2021. Few rides have been scheduled since schools began reopening in March 2021. If the recommended actions are approved, the extension of this contract would allow for rides to be continued for foster youth to their school of origin through June 30, 2024. Furthermore, this extension will also allow sufficient time for the issuance of a new solicitation for contracts beginning July 1, 2024.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

The recommended actions support Countywide Strategic Plan Goal I: Make Investments that Transform Lives, Strategy I.1.4 Support Educational Outcomes for Systems-Involved Youth, by providing school stability to foster youth through helping them stay at their schools of origin.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Each fiscal year the estimated transportation costs for the private car service are calculated for this contract based on ride and cost data as well as anticipated growth from the previous fiscal year. An eight (8%) percent administrative fee split evenly between DCFS and the school districts is also included in the estimated transportation cost for each fiscal year. DCFS and all School Districts that have signed the Interagency Agreement have agreed to equally share the costs for the private car service and are notified of the estimated costs for each school year. The funding for this transportation service for DCFS comes from their 2011 Realignment funds and is provided to WDACS as part of the normal budget process. The monies from the school districts are held in a non-interest-bearing trust account until needed as payment for the vendor.

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<sup>2</sup> Shah, M.F., Liu, Q., Mancuso, D., Marshall, D., Lucenko, B., &Huber, A. (2015). Youth at risk of homelessness: Identifying key predictive factors among youth aging out of foster care in Washington State. Olympia, WA: DSHS Research and Data Analysis Division. Report Number 7.106.

<sup>3</sup> Clemens, Elysia V., Lalonde, Trent L., Phillips Sheesley, Alison. (2016). "The relationship between school mobility and students in foster care earning a high school credential." Children and Youth Services Review, 68. 193-201

<sup>4</sup> The relationship between school mobility and students in foster care earning a high school credential. (2016). Children and youth Services Review; Legal Center for Foster Care and Education (2016), and Foster youth Stability (2013) The Center for Social Services Research .

There are no additional net county costs anticipated.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

On July 14, 2017, LACOE issued a competitive procurement for this private car transportation service to transport youth in foster care throughout Los Angeles County to their schools of origin. HopSkipDrive, Inc. was the winning proposer, and on September 6, 2017 LACOE executed contract number 122236 with HopSkipDrive, Inc. to provide transportation services for students in foster care. The term of the Contract was for an initial one (1) year period with four (4) one (1) year options to extend.

On October 9, 2018, the County took over the HopSkipDrive Contract from LACOE and WDACS assumed responsibility for administering the contract. WDACS has asked that DCFS transition this service to their department. WDACS will continue to administer this existing contract and work with DCFS to set a date to transfer the contract.

County Counsel approval as to form will be obtained prior to execution of any amendments.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

A new solicitation for the private car transportation vendor will be issued by DCFS, and they will administer the contract for the successful proposer.

### **MONITORING REQUIREMENT**

Administrative, programmatic, and fiscal monitoring of the HopSkipDrive, Inc. contract will be conducted on an annual basis by the Los Angeles County's Auditor-Controller to ensure compliance.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES**

If the requested recommendations are approved, it will allow the County to continue providing private transportation services under the current contract to foster youth through June 2024.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
October 5, 2021  
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**CONCLUSION**

Should you have any questions, please contact me directly, or your staff may contact Mr. Kevin Anderson, Special Assistant, at [kanderson@wdacs.lacounty.gov](mailto:kanderson@wdacs.lacounty.gov).

Respectfully submitted,

OTTO SOLÓRZANO  
Acting Director

OS:PG:CD:RB:ag

c: Chief Executive Office  
County Counsel  
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
Department of Children and Family Services  
Office of Child Protection  
Supervising Administrator