Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) – Screening Tools

Hosted by the County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA)

March 5, 2015

Overview

- State and Federal Policy for CSEC Screening
- Screening Tool Development/Implementation
- County Implementation
- Community Partnership
- Questions?
Presenters

Diana Boyer (Moderator), Senior Policy Analyst, County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA)

WestCoast Children’s Clinic
   Danna Basson, Director of Research and Evaluation
   Jodie Langs, Director of Policy and Communications

Loc H. Nguyen, Director, Children and Family Services, San Mateo County Human Services Agency

Barry Johnson, Program Director, Family and Children’s Services, City and County of San Francisco

Tracy Schiro, Assistant Social Services Director, San Luis Obispo County

Federal and State Policy

SB 855 (2014) State CSEC Program
   Voluntary program – counties opt-in to develop protocols and provide direct services using an MDT approach.

P.L. 113-183 (2014) Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act
   Requires protocols to locate children missing from foster care, determine factors that led to their being absent, determine child’s experiences while absent from care, including whether child was commercially sexually exploited.
   Must develop and implement protocols Sept. 29, 2015.
Commercial Sexual Exploitation – Identification Tool (CSE-IT)

Presentation to the County Welfare Directors Association
March 5, 2015

Danna Basson, Director of Research and Evaluation
Jodie Langs, Director of Policy and Communications

Agenda

- Need for a screening tool to identify CSEC
- Development of the CSE-IT
- The structure of the CSE-IT
- Training on the tool
- Piloting the tool
Background: WestCoast Children's Clinic

- Community psychology clinic in Oakland
- Serves children and youth age 3-21
- Established C-Change: Changing the Lives of Sexually Exploited Youth
  - Intensive mental health and case management services for CSEC
  - 125 youth per year
- Conducted Sexually Exploited Minors: Research to Action project

Key Findings from Our Research

- For three-quarters of all clients, exploitation has been ongoing for two or more years before it is recognized and they are referred to services.
- We need to identify youth more quickly to intervene and prevent further abuse.
Knowledge of Exploitation

- 25.4% Youth understands they're currently being exploited
- 35.8% Youth has some understanding that they are currently exploited
- 16.4% Youth is unaware of their exploitation
- 22.4% Youth actively denies or rationalizes exploitation

Search for Evidence-Based Tools

- No screening tools are available.
- Some interview guides, but few are validated.
  - Covenant House – survey of youth
  - Vera Institute of Justice – interview questions for minors and adults, sex and labor
  - Many tools being used that are not validated.
- Problems with tools: lengthy, not child-centered, require self-disclosure to identify, open-ended
Need for Universal Screening

- Universal screening is the first step in identifying risk of an adverse event **before symptoms appear**.
- Facilitate early intervention, prevent the onset of additional adverse events or complications.
- Universal screening means everyone who meets specific predetermined criteria is screened.
  - Minimize the possibility that people are screened differentially based on gender, race, appearance, or other aspects of identity.
  - Screen all youth age 10+
- Screening is not diagnostic; once screening identifies a problem, additional information gathering and appropriate interventions are needed.

CSE-IT Development

- Gathered the input of over 100 stakeholders to be as comprehensive as possible.
  - Survivors
  - Providers, including in: mental health, primary care, public health, law enforcement, probation, child welfare, education, youth homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, group homes
- Diverse geographic coverage across the state
  - Northern and southern California; urban and rural areas.
CSE-IT- Philosophy

The CSE-IT is:

- An information integration tool; encourages thinking systematically about indicators
- Fits within current system of gathering information about youth
  - Not a structured interview.
  - Gather information from discussions with you, collaterals, case files, reporting parties, providers, etc.
  - Can be integrated into systems and processes already in place.

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CSE-IT: Structure

- Ten key indicators of CSEC
- Questions to consider

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. Use of Technology</th>
<th>No Concern</th>
<th>Possible Concern</th>
<th>Clear Concern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Does the youth use online sites or apps to find sex partners?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Does the youth describe meeting his/her long-term, adult boy/girlfriend on the internet?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Does the youth describe meeting in person with a contact developed over the internet?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Are there explicit photos of the youth posted on the internet?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Does the youth have explicit photos of him/herself on his/her phone?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Does the youth have several cell phones, and/or does the youth’s cell phone number change frequently?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Item ratings ≥ 3 indicate Possible Concern. Item ratings ≥ 5 indicate Clear Concern.
CSE-IT: Structure

- Score indicating level of risk for sexual exploitation
- Score helps to determine next steps

CSE-IT: User Training

3 hour CSE-IT training for those piloting the tool:

- Understanding and using the tool
- Talking with youth about sexual exploitation
- Research and data protocol instructions (for the pilot only)
CSE-IT: Pilot and validation

- Piloting helps to test the tool before broader implementation.
- Piloting means sharing de-identified data with WestCoast to build the evidence base for the tool.
- Piloting requires:
  - Deciding who will screen and when
  - Debriefing and providing feedback on the tool

Is there a cost to pilot the tool?

- WestCoast has been awarded several foundation grants for the research and development of the tool
- Cost to counties:
  - Initial training of pilot units: $1,700
  - Optional TA: $190/hr
  - Funding sources: SB 855 (RTA's received training funds); FY 15-16 CSEC Program funds; Title IV-E training funds;
- Sustainability plan:
  - Train the trainer; no cost to using the tool
Ultimate Goals

- **Improve identification of victims**, which will expedite access to services and care.
- **Improve prevalence estimates and cross-system communication** regarding the number of CSEC in a jurisdiction and across California.
- **Facilitate data-driven decision-making**. Policymakers and public system leaders need valid, reliable, and timely information on the scope of a problem to make data-driven decisions about where to allocate public resources.
- **Ensure that multiple child-serving settings have the capacity to screen youth** by integrating the expertise of child welfare, juvenile justice, education, and health leaders.

Contact Information

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CSEC Screening Webinar Tool and Challenges

March 5, 2015

Loc H. Nguyen, DrPH, MSW
Director, Children and Family Services
Human Services Agency
San Mateo County

Previous Tool

• Developed by Shared Hope International (http://sharedhope.org/)
• Organization developed in late 1990s to address Human Trafficking internationally.
Challenges

- Proprietary
- Was not user friendly
- Long Tool (34 Questions)
- Several Tiers (groups) of questions

Challenges

- Social workers had difficulty with questions above Tier 1
- Some were not comfortable asking the questions.
- Some reacted to answers in a way that made the child uncomfortable.
Challenges

- Training was difficult as Shared Hope International is based in a different state (WA).
- Same small number of social workers would attend training.

Challenges

- Developing partnership with WestCoast Children’s Clinic to implement Screening Tool

  - Lhnguyen@smcgon.org
  - 650-802-3390
CSEC Screening Tools
San Francisco’s Efforts

Barry Johnson, Program Director, Family and Children’s Services, City and County of San Francisco

SF’s CSEC Response

Internal Agency Work
- Screening
- Training
- Services
- Policy

Protocol Development
- Steering Committee
- Stakeholder Group
SF – Screening Tool Pilot

Pre-pilot
• Developed local screening tool
• Shared with West Coast to inform tool for validation

Pilot/Validation process (Plan-Do-Study-Act method)
• Selected Emergency Response, FM/Fr and 16 – 21 Transition to Permanency units for pilot
• Screening training via West Coast and Regional Training Academy for staff in these units to provide feedback
• Completing tool on ~50 children previously identified to be involved in CSEC

Implementation
• Finalization of tool with West Coast based on feedback
• Integration of screening into Inter-Agency Protocol
• Spread to the rest of the agency units systematically

Key Issues

- How does screening training fit in with awareness training?
  ⇒ *Tiered method of training, based on pilot units*

- How will we implement effectively?
  ⇒ *PDSA method*

- Which of our inter-agency partners will also use the tool?
  ⇒ *Reaching out to service providers for pilot; discussion during Inter-Agency protocol development*

- How will we integrate the screening tool with our response system for CSEC?
  ⇒ *Tool should help us identify youth for further prevention/intervention work. How do we line up our response to the score?*
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

CSEC Screening Tool and Screening Tool User Guide

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY CSEC IDENTIFICATION SUB-COMMITTEE GOALS

• Set standards for identifying San Luis Obispo County’s risk factors/characteristics for at-risk youth and CSEC victims.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Performance</th>
<th>Runaway incidents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Truancy</td>
<td>Substance Abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrest History</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gang Involvement</td>
<td>Tattoos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanency—Having an adult or mentor they trust in their life</td>
<td>Modeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of moves in placement</td>
<td>Suicidal Thoughts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Self-Harming (Cutting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low Self-Esteem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LGBT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SAN LUIS OBISPO CSEC IDENTIFICATION SUB-COMMITTEE
GOALS

- Development of the Screening Tool
  - Questions from previously designed screening tool from San Mateo County was amended and combined with additional questions in order to create a Screening Tool specifically for San Luis Obispo County.

- Identify how the Screening Tool would be utilized
  - The Screening Tool was designed to be used as an opportunity for community providers to assess their knowledge of a youth on their caseload.
    - The tool includes an “Unknown” response to prompt the provider to engage the youth relating to the question.

SAN LUIS OBISPO CSEC IDENTIFICATION SUB-COMMITTEE
GOALS

- Set expectations for Multi-Agency Screenings
  - Agencies participating in the Collaborative Team have agreed to use the CSEC Screening Tool
  - Agencies also agreed to submit completed Screenings to Child Welfare Services to track the results of the CSEC Screening Tool
    - The child’s name will be redacted to comply with Confidentiality

- Training
  - CSEC Speakers Bureau will be providing training on how to use the Screening Tool and Guide along with the Protocol during the CSEC 101 training.
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY’S CSEC SCREENING TOOL

- The Screening Tool is not intended to be used as an interview tool
- The demographics is being used for the data collection with the name redacted
- Each question has a value system:
  - 22 Questions
  - 1-15 = 3 points, 16-17 = 2 points, 18-22 = 1 points

SAN LUIS OBISPO CSEC COLLABORATION RESPONSE TEAM
COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

SCREENING TOOL
Please take a few minutes to fill out this form; one for each youth on your caseload. If you do not have time to complete for every youth, please at least preview this tool and complete for those you feel are at highest risk. Thank you in advance for your participation as this tool will help us identify the youth who are most impacted by the sexual exploitation industry.

Screening Date: 3/27/2015
Worker: Mary Johnson
Client’s Name: Jane Doe
DOB: 1/1/2000
Gender: Female
Age: 15
Zip Code: 93401

1. Has unexplained absences from school for an extensive period of time. [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown
2. Chronically runs away from home/placement. [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown
3. Makes references to frequent travel to other cities. [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown
4. Knows someone who has had sex for drugs, shelter, food, goods, or money. [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown
5. Makes references to an older “boyfriend / girlfriend”. [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown
6. Makes reference or is participating in an online relationship, and has not met the person face-to-face. [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown
7. Criminal Record / Arrest History / Juvenile Probation. [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown
8. Gang Affiliation. [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown
9. History of Child Welfare Services. [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown
IDENTIFYING THE RISK ASSESSMENT ON THE SCREENING TOOL

RISK ASSESSMENT

I. Assessment: When marked “Yes”, each of the risk factors listed on the screening tool has a ranking from 1-5 as followed:
   - Questions 1-15 = 3
   - Questions 16-17 = 2
   - Questions 18-22 = 1
Total: 21 / Please see Overrides section below for items unknown.

II. The sum of all items is then used to determine the level of potential/current risk.
   - □ 28-54 = High/Very High
   - X 0-27 = Low/Moderate Risk
   - □ None − No action needed
   - □ Override: Mother reports that daughter is prostituting

III. Overrides to be considered for increased level of risk:
   a. □ If a third or more of the risk factors are identified
   b. □ If the youth is 10-14 years old and at least 1 risk factor in each category is identified
   c. □ If the youth is 12 or younger and has been AWOL at any point
   d. □ References terminology of the commercial sex industry
   e. □ If the youth has 3 or more items in the high risk category

REPORTING TO CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

IV. Referral to Child Welfare Services:
   - ✔ SCAR made to Child Welfare Services
     Date submitted: 2/7/2015
   - □ No SCAR needed

V. Referral(s) made for the youth to receive services with local community partner(s):
   - Yes □ No
   - Referred date:  
   - Local agency referred to:  

VI. Submitted tool with name redacted to Department of Social Services − Belinda Benassi
   (email: bbenassi@co.iol.ca.us or fax: (805) 781-1846) ✔ Yes □ No

VII. Comments

2/7/15 CSEC Screening Tool
PURPOSE OF THE SCREENER TOOL USER GUIDE

- The Screening Tool User Guide was created to help guide the screener with questions to ask the youth.
- The User Guide will provide a brief explanation of what the question means and helpful questions correlating to the Screening Tool.
- If the screener has unknown answers, the Screener Tool User Guide should help them with questions or conversations to engage the youth.

CSEC SCREENING TOOL USER GUIDE

SCREENING TOOL USER GUIDE

1. Absences may include long periods of time of frequent, unexcused and excused absences and leaving school early.
   - Example Questions:
     - Are you currently enrolled in school? If so, where do you go to school?
     - How many days a week do you go to school?
     - Have you ever ditched school? If so, why?
     - Have you been SARF’d at school?

2. This can include homelessness, “couch surfing”, or a transient youth. This youth may be expressing a desire to leave home and live with someone else. They may have already run away and not stating they did — consider their appearance in clothing.
   - Example Questions:
     - When was the last time you saw your parent(s) or guardian?
     - How are the conditions at home? Or in Foster Care? Group Home?
     - Have you ever been kicked out of your home? Currently?
     - Was it your choice to leave home?
     - What caused you to leave home?

3. The CSE youth may make reference to moving or coming from areas such as Fresno, Madera, Bakersfield, San Francisco (Bay Area), Los Angeles, San Diego, or Sacramento. This may include attending big events in these areas, such as sporting events, concerts, and parties.
   - Example Questions:
     - What was the most exciting thing that happened at the event?
     - That’s my favorite team, how did you get to go to that event?
     - Who did you go with to these events?
     - How did you afford to travel/attend these events?
     - Where did you stay, and how long were you there?
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCREENER TOOL WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- The Screener Tool and User Guide have been presented to Community Partners
- Training on how to use the Screener Tool is being implemented
- Members from the CSEC Collaborative Response Team have started using the tools
  - Probation
  - California Youth Connection/ Independent Living Program
  - Family Resource Centers
  - Child Welfare Services Staff

THANK YOU!

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CSEC SCREENING WEBINAR
- QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Visit the CWDA – CSEC Website
for additional information and recorded webinars:
http://cwda.org/tools/csec.php

California State Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC)
– CSEC Toolkit can be accessed at:
http://calswec.berkeley.edu/toolkits/serving-commercially-
sexually-exploited-children-csec-toolkit