

# What is the role of California's Child Welfare System in Combatting the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children?



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**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY**

# STATE-WIDE INITIATIVES ADDRESSING COMMERCIALY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN (CSEC)



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# ROADMAP



- **Background**
- **CSEC Action Team**
- **CA Child Trafficking Programs**
  - CSEC Program
  - Preventing and Addressing Child Trafficking (PACT)
- **Collaboration Across Initiatives**
- **County Resources**
- **Next Phase: HR 4980 Implementation**
- **Future Support**

# BACKGROUND



- Identified intersection of child welfare and child sex trafficking
- Introduced topic to the California Child Welfare Council
- *Ending the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Call for Multi-System Collaboration in California (2013)*
  - Led to two distinct but intersecting programs supporting cross-agency collaboration: **PACT and the CSEC Program**

*Resource available at [www.tinyurl.com/CACSECRreport](http://www.tinyurl.com/CACSECRreport)*

# CSEC ACTION TEAM



- **Multidisciplinary body**
  - Co-Chairs: **Diana Dooley**, Secretary of the Dept. of Health & Human Services & **Leslie Heimov**, Executive Director of Children's Law Center of California
  - 50+ members: diverse geographically and substantively
  - Members contribute to all resources for counties and meet quarterly for report-outs, learning opportunities
- **Activities**
  - Research & surveys
  - Resources & guidance for **ALL** counties
  - Ongoing collaboration with the State, anti-trafficking coalitions
  - Training

# CSEC PROGRAM



- **SB 855 (2014)**
  - Clarified Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) § 300
    - *CSEC may be served through child welfare system as victims of child abuse and neglect*
  - **Created the CSEC Program**
    - Opt-in program requiring participating counties to serve identified and at-risk CSEC through a coordinated, MDT approach
    - **Implementation in FY 2015-2016**
      - June: County Plans
      - September: 20 counties Tier II\*; 15 Tier I
      - October: Tier II protocols

# Preventing and Addressing Child Trafficking (PACT)



- **5 year (2014-2019) federal grant through U.S. HHS-ACF**
- **10 participating counties**
- **Addresses child sex and labor trafficking within the California child welfare population by:**
  - Bolstering existing multidisciplinary collaboration across state and local partners
  - Creating a shared learning environment as a microcosm
  - Developing and implementing a best practice program model which includes protocols, tools and trainings
  - Collecting data, evaluating outcomes and sharing results
- **8 counties are both PACT & CSEC Program Tier II**

# Strategic Collaboration Across Initiatives



- **Action Team-PACT-CDSS**
  - Action Team creates resources with PACT, CDSS and county input
  - Action Team shares resources with counties (often through CDSS)
  - PACT and/or CSEC Program counties implement these resources or use them to inform their interagency protocols
  - Counties provide feedback to PACT and the Action Team on the utility of the resources, on-the-ground challenges and opportunities
  - PACT/AT collaboration informs State and internal CDSS policy regarding child exploitation
- **All counties benefit from AT-PACT-CDSS collective expertise as they adapt to recent policy developments**



# ACTION TEAM RESOURCES



- **Model Framework**
  - Background & Purpose
  - Model Interagency Protocol Framework
- **CSEC Practice Guidance Toolkit**
  - Memorandum of Understanding Template for CSEC Program
  - Holistic Needs of CSEC
  - Core Competencies for Serving CSEC
- **Resource application extends beyond CSEC Program counties**

*Resource available at [www.tinyurl.com/CACSECProg](http://www.tinyurl.com/CACSECProg)*

# NEXT PHASE: HR 4980 IMPLEMENTATION



- **HR 4980 (2014)/SB 794 (enrolled):**
  - CSEC provisions requiring policies and procedures (P&Ps) to:
    - ✦ **Identify** children who are, or are at risk of becoming, CSEC
    - ✦ **Document** these individuals in CWS/CMS
    - ✦ **Determine appropriate services** for the child
    - ✦ **Receive relevant training**
  - **Missing children provisions requiring P&Ps to:**
    - ✦ **Expediently locate** child missing from care
    - ✦ **Document:** primary *factors* contributing to absence, experiences while absent, determination whether child is a possible CSEC
    - ✦ **Report to NCMEC**
    - ✦ **Apply identified *factors* to decision-making for future placement**

# FUTURE SUPPORT FOR COUNTIES



- **Action Team Priorities: 2015-2016**
  - Tier II Convening – Dec. 1
    - ✦ White paper with best practice inventory
  - Survivor Advisory Council
    - ✦ Inform all CSEC Action Team and county efforts
  - Strengthened collaboration with partners
  - Training
  
- **PACT Year Two Priorities:**
  - Create PACT Planning Guide and Strategic Action Plan Templates for use by counties
  - Support counties as they implement their CDSS CSEC Program funding initiatives
  - Begin research on child labor trafficking and convene workgroup
  
- **Forthcoming Resources from NCYL Child Trafficking**
  - Data collection memorandum
  - Mandatory reporting guidelines

# CONTACT



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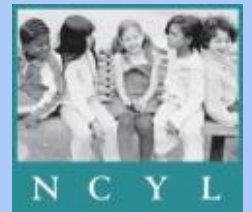
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*CSEC Action Team Resources are available at:  
[www.tinyurl.com/CACSECProg](http://www.tinyurl.com/CACSECProg)*





**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**

**COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CASE)**



**COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:**

**A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO ADDRESS THE  
COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF  
CHILDREN IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**

**ANNE-MICHELLE ELLIS  
HELEN PARROTT**

# The Beginning of CASE



**“A plea to help a young victim of child prostitution”  
by Wesley Hughes, San Bernardino Sun, 3/22/09**

*“...It was the first public meeting of the Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation, which had been established by District Attorney Michael A. Ramos. He said he had heard enough of my harping for a leader to come forward in the campaign against child sexual abuse, so he decided to be that leader.*”

*When you look at it, DeAndra, that whole dang meeting was about you...”*

[http://www.sbsun.com/ci\\_11972729#ixzz2QHmkOdm6](http://www.sbsun.com/ci_11972729#ixzz2QHmkOdm6)

# Agencies Involved



## Original Partners

- **Department of Behavioral Health**
- **Children & Family Services**
- **Children's Network**
- **District Attorney**
- **Probation**

## Added Later

- **Sheriff**
- **County Schools**
- **Public Defender**
- **Public Health**
- **Juvenile Courts**

# Governing Structure



- **MOU exists between all entities outlining roles and responsibilities of each.**
- **Steering Committee, chaired by Presiding Judge over Juvenile Court & consisting of one representative from each department met monthly for the first three years and currently meets quarterly to:**
  - **Build consensus and determine project objectives towards CASE plan through a majority vote, when quorum is present.**
- **Changes to MOU can be requested by any of the departments and is executed by DBH and signed by all department heads.**



# Funding and MDT



## **Funding:**

- **Originally through the California Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), Innovations**
- **As of July 2014, a MHSA Prevention & Early Intervention Program**

## **Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT):**

- **Funds used to establish an MDT that meets weekly and consists of:**
  - Coordinator, Children's Network**
  - Social Worker, Children & Family Services (Now funded by CFS)**
  - Social Worker, Department of Behavioral Health**
  - Social Worker, Public Defender**
  - Juvenile Probation Officer (Now funded by Probation)**
- **Once a month, juvenile court attorneys meet with MDT.**
- **No formal assessment tool or intake process. Referrals received from multiple departments/agencies and the community.**

# Services



## Provided by CASE:

- Collaborative Case Management
- Advocacy
- Mental Health Assessment
- Therapeutic Intervention
- Crisis Intervention
- Transportation
- Placement
- Linkage to Community Resources
- Training & Education

## Provided by Community Partners:

- Survivor Mentorship
- Short-term Crisis Shelter
- Therapy
- Educational Opportunities
- Several local as well as out-of-state placements
- Rachel's House of Healing for adult women.

# Other Committees and Activities



- **Outreach & Education**
  - Once a month.
  - Community outreach and engagement.
  - Diverse backgrounds.
- **Training (no longer meets)**
  - Workgroup formed to identify training areas and content.
- **Interventions (no longer meets)**
  - Workgroup formed to identify client needs and resources.
- **Law Enforcement**
  - Sworn officers only. Meets once a month.
- **Speaker's Bureau**
  - Ongoing training of community members to make short presentations regarding CSEC and CASE to community groups.

# Training and Education



- **Identification & Assessment (4 Hours)**
  - Offered at least once a month.
  - BBS and Nursing CEUs offered.
- **Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (2 Hours)**
  - Offered when requested by agencies/organizations.
- **What is CASE? (30 Minute)**
  - Brief presentation offered to community groups.
- **Deceptions (Youth Group)**
  - Curriculum offered to groups of youth and recommended to schools.
- **“Teenage \$ex 4 \$ale” (District Attorney’s Documentary)**
  - 45 minute film regarding sex trafficking in San Bernardino County

# Current and Future Projects



- **PACT Project**
  - **WestCoast Screening Tool Pilot CSE-IT**
- **State Opt-In Program**
  - **Update of MOU to add a Public Health Nurse to the MDT**
  - **Submitted County Plan for Tier II Consideration**
- **Currently formulating a plan to train**
  - **Foster Parents and Children**
  - **Peer & Family Assistants**

# Contact Information



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# **SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY**



## **COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN (CSEC) PROGRAM**

**TASHA DUNHAM**

**LIBBY GAEDTKE**

**JOHN GRECO**

# SJ County Demographic Info



**San Joaquin County has a unique combination of factors that make the area vulnerable to human trafficking. The geographic location, the high number of runaway and homeless youth, and the prevalence of gang activity create a perfect storm that encourages and facilitates trafficking. Several major north/south (I-5, CA-99) and east/west highways (I-205, CA-4, CA-12) and arteries cut cross San Joaquin County making it easy for youth to be trafficked through Stockton to other cities in the Central Valley, as well as to the Bay Area, Southern California and Nevada. Many of the known Dependent trafficked youth from SJC have been detained by law enforcement in locales ranging from Oakland to Anaheim to Las Vegas.**



# History of CSEC efforts in SJ County



- A local non-profit (Women's Center – Youth and Family Services) started the San Joaquin County Human Trafficking Task Force (SJCHTTF) and invited a wide spectrum of local government and community organizations to participate.
- The task force has workgroups that meet outside of the monthly full task force meetings. All task force members are on a workgroup, but workgroup members are not all part of the larger task force.

## Workgroups are:

- Advocacy
- Education/Outreach
- Volunteer

# Benefits of SJCHTTF



- **Began the conversation in the community about CSEC**
- **Kept the Task Force apprised of what was happening in Child Welfare and kept Child Welfare apprised of the Task Force efforts**
- **Brought in training**
- **Identified resources and worked on protocols for responding to victims**
- **Developed presentations for outreach and education**
- **Designed brand and logo used for Billboards, Bus ads, posters, brochures, etc.**

# Accomplishments of SJCHTTF



- **Built collaboration between Probation and Without Permission**
- **Dignity Health special screening to all emergency rooms-  
trainings**
- **Implementing Grace City App for San Joaquin County**
- **Established Pro Bono legal assistance**
- **Secured over \$85,000 in funding the first year**
- **Successful prosecution of human trafficking**
- **Looking at approach in a different way**
- **Identified what resources do exist in San Joaquin County and  
State**
- **LE Protocol Developed**
- **Helpline established**



**NO ONE IS  
FOR SALE**

**GET HELP (209) 948-1911**  
HUMANTRAFFICKING HOTLINE

**END  
IT**

VALLEY OUTDOOR

The billboard features a black and white photograph of a young child with long hair, looking down at a white sign they are holding. The sign has the text 'NO ONE IS FOR SALE' in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. Below the photograph is a yellow horizontal band containing the text 'GET HELP (209) 948-1911' in bold black letters, with 'HUMANTRAFFICKING HOTLINE' in smaller black letters underneath. To the right of the yellow band is a red circular logo with the words 'END IT' in white. At the bottom center of the billboard frame, the text 'VALLEY OUTDOOR' is visible in a stylized font.



# Children's Services



- **CSEC Interagency Committee:**
  - Children's Services
  - Probation
  - Juvenile Court Judge
  - District Attorney's office
  - Behavioral Health Services
  - Public Health
- **Projected activities with CDSS support will include; identification, recruitment and engagement of CSEC survivors to provide outreach and education to foster children and caregivers, county and community staff serving children who are victims or at risk of commercial sexual exploitation, and; contracting community-based organizations and/or designating county staff trained and specialized to provide case management support to such children and their families and/or caregivers.**

# Identification & Assessment



- **Along with other PACT counties, we are participating in the pilot of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation - Identification Tool (CSE-IT). Permanent Placement, Treatment and Voluntary Family Maintenance units were identified to use the tool.**
- **Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths - Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CANS-CSE) tool – Behavioral Health Services clinicians co-located in the Children’s Services agency will be trained in the CANS-CSE tool and conduct the assessments.**

# Challenges



- **Data collection regarding CSEC victims and “at risk” CSEC youth.**
- **Identification and recruitment of CSEC survivor for the Interagency committee, Multidisciplinary Team participation and direct service.**

# Contact Information



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# Discussion and Q&A



**“What challenges has your agency experienced in developing and implementing the interagency protocol in regards to addressing the commercial sexual exploitation of children?”**

# Discussion and Q&A



**“What plans, if any, do you and your interagency team/stakeholders have to address some of these challenges?”**