COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC)

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Webinar Learning Objectives

- Differentiate between Human Trafficking, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), and Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST).

- Connect how CSEC intersects with the Child Welfare System.

- Highlight national and statewide CSEC legislation as well as efforts currently underway that focus on prosecuting traffickers, assisting CSEC victims, and building capacity.

- Define risk factors for CSEC involvement for victims, recruitment strategies, and psychosocial aspects of CSEC.

- Describe lessons learned and practice recommendations for how child welfare agencies can provide victims of CSE with a trauma-informed and interagency approach, which is responsive to the complex needs of these youth.
Overview of Human Trafficking

Part I
What is Human Trafficking?

*Minors induced into commercial sex are human trafficking victims-regardless if force, fraud or coercion is present.*

Source: Polaris Project/National Human Trafficking Resource Center, 2012

(http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/sites/default/files/AMP%20Model.pdf)
**Major Forms of Human Trafficking**

**Commercial Sex Trade**

When an **adult** is coerced, forced, or deceived into prostitution—or maintained in prostitution through coercion, force, or deceit—that person is a victim of trafficking.

Can include street prostitution, massage parlors, escort services, strip clubs, and brothels.

**Labor Trafficking**

Adults or minors in forced labor services or involuntary servitude via force, fraud, or coercion.

Takes many different forms including (but not limited to) sweatshops, farm work, factories, the hospitality and restaurant industry, construction, nail salons, and peddling or begging rings.

**Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children**

Sexual activity involving a **minor under the age of 18** in exchange for something of value, or a promise thereof, to the child or another person or persons.

Includes: prostitution, pornography, stripping, erotic massage, escort services, phone sex lines, private parties, and internet-based exploitation, etc.

(http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2011/164220.htm)
CSEC & DMST—What’s the Difference?

**CSEC**

Sexual activity involving a child in exchange for money or something of value to the child or a third person or persons. The child is treated as a sexual object and as a commercial object.

**DMST**

Consists of all forms of CSEC involving a third party that profits from the sexual activity with a child originating from the country in which the activity occurs (U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident under age of 18).

Sources: Girls Education and Mentoring Services (GEMS); Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000
Intersection of CWS and CSEC

- CA studies found 75-95% of children involved in CSE have a history with the CWS prior to exploitation*
- Exploiters are known to target foster youth because of their unique vulnerabilities and accessibility
- Two CWS roles emerge:
  - preventing CSEC among populations already involved in child welfare, and
  - identifying/assisting current CSEC victims in their care.

Federal and State Legislation

Part II
Federal Efforts

❖ Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) 2000


❖ Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (H.R. 4980)

For all Federal Human Trafficking Laws (current and pending) visit Polaris Project:
300(b)(2) The Legislature finds and declares that a child who is:

- sexually trafficked, as described in Section 236.1 of the Penal Code, OR
- who receives food or shelter in exchange for, OR
- who is paid to perform, sexual acts described in Section 236.1 or 11165.1 of the Penal Code, AND
- whose parent or guardian failed to, or was unable to, protect the child,

is within the description of this subdivision, and that this finding is declaratory of existing law. These children shall be known as commercially sexually exploited children.

- Requires CWS/CMS tracking of CSEC victims for data management
FY 2014-15 Budget includes $5 million total for CSEC:

- CDSS to spend $1.75 million to provide statewide training for county child welfare workers & out-of-home caregivers (Oct. 2014)
- Additional $750,000 to train foster youth to help them recognize and avoid sexual exploitation (Jan. 2015)
- Remaining $2.5 million allocated to participating counties for protocol development and capacity-building for services to victims*

For FY 2015-16 (and annually thereafter) $14 million total allocated for participating county child welfare agencies to assist CSEC victims.

Source: CDSS All County Letter (ACL) NO. 14-62
*County Fiscal Letter (CFL) No. 14/15-25 provides county allocations/claiming instructions.
Other CSEC State Legislation (Sept. 2014)

- SB 955
- SB 1165
- SB 1388
- AB 1585
- AB 1610
- AB 1791

For all Pending California Human Trafficking Laws visit Polaris Project: http://www.polarisproject.org/what-we-do/policy-advocacy
Current Statewide Efforts

- Nine CA Regional Anti-Human Trafficking Task Forces (http://oag.ca.gov/human-trafficking/fighting)

- California Child Welfare Council
  - 2013 Report: “Ending the CSEC: A Call For Multi-System Collaboration in California” (Kate Walker)

- CSEC Action Team
  - State body to research, develop, monitor and oversee implementation of recommendations related to CSEC: Prevalence & Assessment; Prevention & Training; Specialized Services and Multi-System Data & Coordination
  - Current Objectives:
    - Develop implementation toolkit for counties on interagency protocol
    - Provide guidance on training curricula for three levels of training
    - Develop a model services protocol for use by counties

- CDSS Awarded Federal CSEC Grant
Part III

Reframing the Issue of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)
Myths and Facts, Risk Factors, and the Continuum of Abuse
“There is no such thing as a Child/Teen Prostitute”

Myth:
- Children and Teens can consent to participate in “Child or Teen Prostitution”

Fact:
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children are NOT developmentally, legally, or socially able to make the “choice” to have sex for money or to become involved in the commercial sex industry.

Not ONLY Pedophiles Seek Out CSEC Victims

 Myth:
   Most adults who seek out children for sex are pedophiles

 Fact:
   Only about half of adults who abuse children sexually are pedophiles.
   The second largest group of adult sexual exploiters are “opportunistic exploiters”: military; tourists; migrants; conventioneers; and truckers.
   Trusted members of the child’s network of social relationships: priests and other clergy; sports team leaders; teachers; and neighbors.

CSEC Victims are NOT mostly Poor, Minority and Living in the Inner City

- Myth:
  - In the U.S., CSEC affects mostly poor, inner city, often minority group, children and youth

- Fact:
  - The majority of children involved in CSEC are white and come from working- and middle-class families.
  - Although minority populations are over-represented among CSEC youth in some cities, in others they are not.

Males are also CSEC Victims

- Boys and young men involved in CSEC tend to be far less visible as compared to female victims.
- Boys engaged in commercial sex work tend to fall into two categories:
  - Vulnerable boys who were groomed by a “caring figure”; and
  - Boys escaping an unsafe or poor living situation who are trying to survive on the streets.
## Risk Factors

### General

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<td>• Abuse</td>
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<td>• Homelessness</td>
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<td>• LGBTQ</td>
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<td>• <strong>Inaccessibility of legal economies</strong></td>
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CSEC Recruitment

- Many of them [CSEC victims]:
  - have run away from homes where they have been sexually or physically abused.
  - come from families who no longer want them or who feel they can no longer handle them.
  - fall into prostitution as a way to survive or as a way to get the things they want or need...

- Exploited Child Unit, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (1998)

The Continuum of Abuse

- More than 80% of exploited youth were sexually abused as children, an equal number were physically abused, and as many as 98% were subjected to emotional abuse.


Graphic: ©Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS)
Questions?
Part IV

Traumatic Bonding
What is Stockholm Syndrome?

- Stockholm syndrome is a psychological trauma bonding that occurs between sexually abused children and their abusers to increase the victim’s safety and decrease the pain experienced during victimization (Walker, 2013).

- A victimized child may see his or her abuser as a protector and sympathize with them as an adaptive psychological strategy. Stockholm syndrome is commonly existent in situations of extreme physical danger and terror (Walker, 2013).
Stockholm Syndrome
Traumatic Bonding

What is needed for Stockholm Syndrome to occur?

- The presence of a perceived threat to one's physical or psychological survival and the belief that the abuser would carry out the threat;
- The presence of a perceived small kindness from the abuser to the victim;
- Isolation from perspectives other than those of the abuser;
- The perceived inability to escape the situation; and
- Shame and stigma associated with prostitution, rape, or loss of virginity.

Film: GEMS’ No Bigger Lie

Indicators of Traumatic Bonding

- Rationalizes violence
- Hyper-vigilant to exploiter’s needs
- Sees world from exploiter’s perspective
- Sees outside authorities/people trying to win release (escape) as bad guys
- Sees pimp as good guy, protector
- Sees exploiter as victim
- Believe they have some control over abuse

Exiting “the life”

Stages of Change

- As youth make strides to exit ‘the life’ their progress commonly follows the **Stages of Change** model:
  - **Pre-contemplation**
    - Not yet acknowledged that there is a problem behavior
  - **Contemplation**
    - Acknowledging a problem but not yet ready or sure of wanting to make a change
  - **Preparation**
    - Getting ready to change
  - **Action**
    - Changing behavior
  - **Maintenance**
    - Maintaining a behavior change
  - **Relapse**
    - Returning to old behaviors and abandoning the new changes


Graphic: The Australian Government Department of Health: Module 9: Working with Youth People on AOD Issues: Learner’s Workbook
Mental Health Effects of CSEC

Part V
The Trauma Experience

(CSEC Victim)

X 25 (Exploiters) per day

X 7 days/week x 1 year

= 8,900 rapes per year

Mental Health Effects of CSEC

- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Depression
- Disconnection from feelings and flat affect
- Anxiety disorders
- Self-blame
- Hopelessness, helplessness
- Nightmares – dreams of rapes, sexual assaults, physical abuse
- Anger and anger management issues
- Suicidal ideation and attempts
- Paranoia
- Spiritual disruption
- Fatalism and rage
- Dual diagnosis
- Self-care issues
- Sleeping issues
- Dissociative disorders
- Stockholm Syndrome

Source: CSEC Community Intervention Training Project. Module 3 Understanding the Impact of CSEC-Handout 3.3 Physical and Psychological Impact of CSEC. Available at: http://www.kristihouse.org/pdfs/cseematerials/AllModule3Handouts.pdf
Warning Signs of Possible CSEC Involvement

- Shows evidence of mental, physical, or sexual abuse.
- Cannot or will not speak on own behalf.
- Is not allowed to speak to you alone; is being controlled by another person.
- Works long hours.
- Has gaps in memory.
- Lives at workplace/with employer, or lives with many people in confined area.
- Has excess amounts of cash.
- Has hotel keys.
- Lying about age/false ID.
- Inconsistencies in story.
- Uses language of the commercial sex industry.

Assessment and Screening Tools

California and West Coast Children’s Clinic
Service Needs of CSEC Victims

- Assistance getting out from under the control of pimps, traffickers and others who hold the children in servitude
- Chemical dependency treatment services
- Child care
- Clothing banks
- Counseling and therapy
- Drop-in centers where they can meet with peers, obtain information and get advice
- Employment training
- Meals
- Non-sexual relationships with caring adults
- Street-based outreach services

Providing a Trauma-Sensitive Response

- **Safe Space**
  - *Physical safety*
    - Choose a safe location
    - Set rules for appropriate conduct for youth
  - *Emotional safety*
    - Decorate the space with appropriate, informational, and/or inspiring images
    - Respect children’s need for privacy and confidentiality
- **Cultural Competency**
  - Make sure that staff have a thorough understanding of impact, dynamics, and subcultures of CSEC
  - Support survivor voices and/or work with survivors of CSEC
- **Youth Development**
  - Believe that all sexually exploited children have the ability to be leaders
  - Foster a sense of belonging and importance in the community

Key Components of and Effective Service System for CSEC

- Screening, and identifying victims
- Education and awareness - all agencies use the same language
- Safety planning for youth, families and the staff serving them
- Collaboration across the multiple child-serving systems and agencies, including CBOs, FBOs, etc.
- Tracking, collecting, and sharing data
- Trauma-informed system of care
- Appropriate placements trained to serve CSEC
- Trust and Relationship building to improve service provision
- Culturally competent and appropriate services
- Survivor involvement in designing and implementing programming for CSEC
Collaboration Across Multiple Systems

- CSEC victims’ needs are so complex and extensive, it is impossible for a single agency to respond effectively to this population.

- Collaboration among providers including:
  - Child welfare
  - Law enforcement
  - Probation
  - Education
  - Medical Personnel
  - Tribal Agencies
  - Community-Based Organizations
  - Housing Departments

Emerging Practices in Child Welfare

1. Institute mandatory screening
2. Place specialized advocates in child welfare centers
3. Coordinate with Dept. of Juvenile Justice & county courts
4. Train case workers
5. Participate in broad coalitions
6. Centralize listings of victim services
7. Coordinate with local children’s hospitals and CACs
8. Coordinate with local rape crisis and sexual assault centers
9. Coordinate on data collection
10. Provide state guidance for CPS investigations

Housing Recommendations for CSEC Survivors

- CSEC victims are in need of immediate, stable emergency, transitional and permanent housing that provides non-judgmental services sensitive to the special issues affecting this population.

- Understanding different stages of exploitation youth experience:
  - Extending amount of time youth can stay in emergency and transitional housing programs
  - Implementing “no reject, no eject” policies

- Continuum of care for CSE youth has three phases:
  1. crisis intervention and assessment,
  2. comprehensive assessment and case management, and
  3. social reintegration

Examples of Local Promising Programs

Southern, CA
- Orange County-- Community Service Programs (CSP): www.cspinc.org/Human%20Trafficking

Los Angeles:
- CAST (Coalition Against Slavery and Trafficking): www.castla.org
- Children of the Night: www.childrenofthenight.org

Bay Area/Northern, CA
- West Coast Children’s Clinic (WCC) - Oakland, CA
- Motivating, Inspiring, Supporting, and Serving Sexually Exploited Youth (MISSEY) http://www.missey.org/
- San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SFCAHT)
- SAGE (Standing Against Global Exploitation)

Central, CA
- Runaway Girls: (Carissa Phelps)

National/Other
- National Human Trafficking Resource Center (Polaris Project) - 1-888-373-7888.
- GEMS - Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS): http://www.gems-girls.org/
- FBI - Innocence Lost Taskforce: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, etc.: www.fbi.gov/about-us/.../innocencelost
- My Life My Choice: http://www.fightingexploitation.org/
Questions?