



Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) 101: Identification and Awareness

Learning Objectives for Classroom Module (6 hours)

Abstract: The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) 101: Identification & Awareness Training will provide an overview of CSEC and the psycho-social dynamics, which contribute to the ongoing victimization of young people by sex traffickers. Laws addressing human trafficking will be examined to assist in understanding their relationship to commercial sexual exploitation of children. Factors influencing the demand for CSEC will be reviewed, including how historical and ongoing gender and racial oppression intersect to create demand. The training will provide information on complex trauma with a focus on the life events and contributing factors that often lead to the sexual exploitation of a child.

Training will utilize scaffolding techniques, interactive discussion, and skill practice exercises to help adult learners integrate concepts and language associated with the commercial sex industry. This approach will educate trainees on common terminology and recognize the role of appropriate language to reduce the stigma experienced by trafficked youth.

Trainees will be provided with tools to identify warning signs and indicators of CSEC involvement. Trainees will obtain the ability to recognize risk and protective factors for youth involvement in CSEC; understand the core elements of a successful CSEC identification, intervention, assessment, and treatment; employ the Stages of Change Model when engaging with CSEC; integrate language and practice to reduce further stigmatization and trauma; build rapport with the CSEC victim; and understand CSEC's needs from youth and survivors' perspective.

Knowledge

- K1.** The learner will be able to define Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).
- K2.** The learner will be able to identify the following legal issues related to CSEC:
 - a. Basic components of human trafficking laws
 - b. Elements of the commercial sexual exploitation of children
 - c. How human trafficking laws relate to exploited children
 - d. Mandatory reporting
 - e. The intersection of CSEC, DMST, and the juvenile justice and child welfare systems (including the designation of CSEC as child maltreatment)
- K3.** The learner will be able to interpret acronyms of commonly used terms and agencies/initiatives involved in combating human trafficking.
- K4.** The learner will be able to identify common physical and behavioral indicators exhibited by children and youth who are experiencing commercial sexual exploitation.
- K5.** The learner will be able to identify risk factors and warning signs related to commercial sexual exploitation and how these manifest in youth.
- K6.** The learner will be able to describe how societal factors (e.g., historical oppression, cultural forces, racism, mainstream and popular culture) contribute to demand for commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth.

Developed by the California Child Welfare Council Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Action Team in conjunction with CDSS, CalSWEC, the RTAs, and the Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice.

- K7.** The learner will be able to describe interpersonal dynamics that contribute to the victimization of young people by sex traffickers (e.g., position of vulnerability from a child development and trauma perspective, recruitment tactics, DV dynamics, trauma bonding, Stockholm Syndrome, etc.).
- K8.** The learner will be able to identify tools that may be utilized in the identification and assessment of victims of trafficking.
- K9.** The learner will be able to describe the process of recruitment, indoctrination, exploiter tactics, and the role of cumulative trauma.
- K10.** The learner will be able to describe the connections among CSEC and
 - a. Youth who are homeless, have runaway, are couch-surfing, etc. (survival sex)
 - b. Youth in the juvenile justice system (survival sex, peer recruitment, burglary, theft, trespassing)
 - c. Youth in the child welfare system (peer recruitment, lack of connections to adults, increased vulnerability)
 - d. Increased vulnerability related to trauma exposure
 - e. Unique circumstances of youth who identify as LGBTQ
- K11.** The learner will be able to identify the following elements related to victims/survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and their caregivers/families:
 - a. Victims' mindset (feelings toward themselves and others)
 - b. Service needs (as these relate to their needs for services as discussed in the context of Stages of Change Model)
 - c. Strengths
 - d. Well-being support (psychological, physical, health, educational, legal, etc.).
- K12.** The learner will be able to describe complex or multi-layered trauma as it relates to sexually exploited youth, including the neurobiological impacts of trauma.

Values

- V1.** The learner will value awareness as a critical first step in CSEC intervention.
- V2.** The learner will value the importance of language (e.g., street terminology, legal terminology; biases and perceptions) and reducing stigma among trafficked youth.
- V3.** The learner will value identifying CSEC victims in order to provide services and better understand the prevalence of the problem
- V4.** The learner will value and understand the unique and different engagement, intervention, and service needs of CSEC.

Curriculum Development Notes

K2: Include the following:

FEDERAL

- **H.R.3244 Latest Title:** Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000
- **H.R.2620 Latest Title:** Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003
- **H.R.972 Latest Title:** Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005
- **H.R.7311 Latest Title:** William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008
- **H.R.898 Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2013**
- **H.R.4980 Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act**

CALIFORNIA

- California Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), which took effect in January of 2006.
- Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (California Penal Code §§11164)
- California Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 b(2)

K3: Engage in an activity converting commonly used terms to accurate and appropriate language usage.

K11: The framework of complex trauma (NCTSN) and developmental trauma (van der Kolk) is recommended