

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL

CSEC Work Group



Model Programs: Interventions & Preventions

Because CSEC is an emerging field, researchers and practitioners have yet to agree on the most appropriate approach to providing services and supports to CSEC. Although interventions and strategies have been developed, few have been tested for their efficacy. Consequently, there is no consensus on a single approach that comprehensively addresses the needs of CSEC. However, CSEC Service providers have identified six components of promising services and strategies to serve CSEC.

The six components of **promising services and strategies** identified by providers who serve CSE victims include:

1. Safety planning for both the clients and the staff serving them;
2. Collaboration across the multiple systems and agencies;
3. Trust and relationship building to foster consistency;
4. Culturally competent and appropriate service provision;
5. Trauma-informed programming;
6. Survivor involvement in the development and implementation of programming.

INTERVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Standing Against Global Exploitation (SAGE)

SAGE, located in San Francisco, aims to help young women build the competencies they need to move successfully from adolescence to adulthood through custody and community-based outpatient services.

- Serves youth in the delinquency and dependency systems, CSEC, transition age youth, and young women seeking to leave commercial sexual exploitation.
- Services are survivor-focused and incorporate principles of harm reduction.
- SAGE provides an individualized service plan and services based on the client's readiness and needs, and builds upon her and her family's strengths.
- Plans focus on all domains including: safety; residential/housing stability; psychological/emotional growth; health; family relationships; social skill mastery; education; vocational preparation; and dependency and/or delinquency system objectives and milestones.

Los Angeles County Probation & Juvenile Court Systems

These two systems are charged with providing a "comprehensive multidisciplinary program for sexually trafficked females in the Juvenile Justice System."¹



- The Probation Department has dedicated five full-time officers to work with CSEC.
- Probation instituted a 48-hour protocol for CSEC-identified youth, requiring an enhanced mental health and medical assessment and access to a CSEC trained provider.
- Probation holds a five-week workshop for girls in juvenile hall to inform them about issues related to commercial sexual exploitation.
- Probation and several community-based organizations are working closely with the Succeeding Through Achievement and Resilience (STAR) Court in Los Angeles County, a specialized court for CSEC identified youth, to provide supervision and supports both in placement and the community.

Multnomah County, Oregon

Multnomah has responded with an integrated approach—involving law enforcement, child welfare, and the local rape crisis center, known as the Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC).

- SARC clinicians are available 24 hours a day for immediate intervention, confidential advocacy, and to do an initial assessment of any suspected victims of commercial sexual exploitation.
- Instead of arresting a suspected CSEC, law enforcement immediately makes a referral to both the child welfare agency and SARC.
- SARC provides case management, culturally specific and survivor-informed interventions, and safety planning.
- SARC has five full-time staff members that respond exclusively to CSEC cases.

PREVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

My Life My Choice Curriculum (MLMC)

- MLMC is a nationally recognized and tested curriculum designed to educate youth about sexual exploitation, reproductive health issues, substance abuse, and improving self-confidence. It also trains youth on accessing resources.
- It is used in several jurisdictions throughout the country, including cities in California.

Project PREVENT (Promoting Respect, Enhancing Value, Establishing New Trust). Atlanta, Georgia

- Targets schools in areas with a high number of juvenile and adult prostitution arrests, where a large proportion of people live below the poverty line and receive public assistance, and that have a high number of single parent households headed by females.
- The curriculum focuses on “trust building and friendships with girls, friendships with boys and dating, popular culture and media, physical and emotional safety, safety mapping, and aggression.”²

Male-Focused Programs

- The Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE) developed the “Empowering Young Men to End Sexual Exploitation Curriculum” for high school boys. The curriculum educates young men about the harms and realities of commercial sexual exploitation and how social pressures can affect their decisions to engage in the trade.

- With its partners at the Juvenile Training School, Connecticut Department of Children and Families developed a program called “Man UP: A Youth Series to Transform the Male Perspective of Women and Its Impact on Sexual Exploitation.” The series “challenges the boys to end the demand that perpetuates sexual exploitation of women and children” by reframing the concept of manhood.³

1 JERRY E. POWERS, CNTY. OF L.A. PROB. DEP'T., COUNTY'S AGGRESSIVE STRATEGY TO COMBAT DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING 2 (2012), available at <http://file.lacounty.gov/bos/supdocs/66018.pdf>

2 Ann Cale Kruger et al., Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Conference Project PREVENT: School-based Intervention to Promote Development of Girls at Risk for Commercial Sexual Exploitation 10 (May 2, 2010) (on file with author).

3 CONN. DEP'T. OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES, A CHILD WELFARE RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING 6 (Aug., 2012) available at http://www.ct.gov/dcf/lib/dcf/humantrafficking/pdf/response_to_domestic_minot_sex_trafficking.pdf

Kate Walker

Attorney & Equal Justice Works Fellow

National Center for Youth Law

Sponsored by Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP Foundation

