



# MONTEREY COUNTY CSEC PROGRAM

A Multi-Agency Effort to Serve Child Victims of  
Sexual Exploitation in Monterey County

## A BIT OF LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND . . .

**In 2014, some legislative changes resulted in a call to action for counties to develop CSEC programs throughout CA:**

**Senate Bill (SB) 855:**

Passed in 06/2014, SB 855 clarifies that CSEC may be served through the child welfare system as victims of child abuse and neglect, and provides updated language to W&IC §300. SB 855 Also established the CSEC Program and appropriated funding for counties to develop interagency protocols for identifying and serving CSEC through a multidisciplinary approach.

**W&IC §300(b)(2)**

Language updates to the W&I clarifies that commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) are defined as any child who has been:

- Sexually Trafficked as described in §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 §236.1 or §11165.1 of the penal code, **AND**
- Whose parent or guardian has failed to, or is unable to protect the child in question.

These children fall under the jurisdiction of child welfare and may be served as victims of abuse and neglect.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MONTEREY COUNTY'S CSEC PROGRAM:

### Regional Efforts:

Monterey County's CSEC Program is part of a Regional CSEC Program developed between Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties, to set a model standard by which the involved agencies in each county would approach identifying and serving this population.

### Local Efforts

Local multidisciplinary (MDT) efforts include a monthly team meeting with partners from Probation, Behavioral Health, Community Human Services, YWCA, Monterey County Rape Crisis, The Coalition to End Human Trafficking, and MCOE's Foster Youth Services Liaison.

### Local Agency Protocols:

Monterey County's Child Welfare Agency Protocol has been written and is being implemented. Other partners in Monterey County are at various stages in developing and implementing their protocols.

### Continued Training Efforts:

As implementation continues, so too do training efforts. We welcome feedback from our staff internally, and our partners, about what types of training would be most helpful.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MONTEREY COUNTY'S CSEC POPULATION:

### A More Broad Idea of Sexual Exploitation:

Exploitation may not always look the way we expect, or the way it looks in larger cities.

The following are some factors that impact the way exploitation presents in Monterey County:

**Tourism**

**Agriculture**

**Gang Activity**

**A Centrally Located County**

## THE BASICS OF OUR CSEC PROTOCOL:

**Our Child Welfare Protocol is used to inform FCS staff of the process by which to identify and serve our CSEC population. The protocol includes information for:**

- Utilization of a designated assessment tool,
- An approach to serving non-citizen CSEC youth,
- A 3-tiered multidisciplinary (MDT) response,
- Standard MDT response time frames, and
- Tools to help staff understand the process, and how to get the information they need.



### The 3-Tiered Response:

#### Immediate Crisis: 120 Minutes

- Hotline referrals in immediate danger
- Hotline Referrals from Law Enforcement or other First Responders
- Meets the immediate health, safety, and basic needs of the youth
- Includes: SW, Law Enforcement, Advocate, and Child Advocacy Center staff

#### Non-Emergent: 10 Days

- Hotline referrals NOT in immediate danger or youth in dependency later ID'd as CSEC or at risk
- Address ongoing basic needs, and other concerns
- 10 day response coordinated by the MDT Coordinator
- Includes: SW, Advocate, Behavioral Health, and others actively working with the youth (Law Enforcement, Public Health, MCOE, etc.)

#### Ongoing: Monthly

- Monthly review of all CSEC including Probation cases. Coordinated by MDT Coordinator
- Review of cases and new referrals, and program updates to the MDT.
- Includes: Child Welfare, MCOE, Community Human Services, YWCA, Rape Crisis, Probation, SART, Law Enforcement, etc.



## CPS RESPONSE IN A NUTSHELL

- Hotline staff will determine if the report meets criteria for response and, if so, how quickly. Options include:
  - Evaluate out (no response)
  - Non-emergent (10-day) response
  - Immediate (2-hour) response
- An Emergency Response Social Worker will need to make contact with the child and family members to assess safety and risk.
- Social Worker may try to establish a Safety Plan with family or may determine safety cannot be maintained without removal from situation.
- Safety plans could include Voluntary Case or referral to services in the community.
- Youths identified as CSEC or High Risk of CSEC discussed with multidisciplinary team (MDT). If CPS/Probation remain involved, team will monitor until case dismissed or concerns mitigated.

## ARCHER CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER & BATES-ELDREDGE CLINIC

- Member of the CSEC Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)
- Located within Natividad Medical Center
- Only location in Monterey County for youths to receive forensic interviews and forensic medical examinations (acute and non-acute)
- Link all youths and non-offending caregivers to therapy and victim advocacy services
- Coordinate countywide Child Abuse Response Team (CART) case reviews
- Accredited by the National Children's Alliance and work collaboratively with child abuse experts around the county

## Case Examples

#1

- Sisters aged 6 and 10 living with single mother since parents' divorce
- School noted they are quiet and cooperative, though sometimes a little disheveled
- Both girls are socially awkward and have trouble making friends with peers

#2

- 14-year-old girl found to have pornographic videos and photos on her school laptop
- Child frequently truant from school and gravitated toward gang members
- School personnel often had difficulties with disrespectful behavior
- Child was recording on a cell phone, but family did not provide the phone

#3

- 10-year-old boy and his large family renting a single room in a crowded apartment
- Parents work frequently and landlord often provides child care
- Child typically very well-behaved and social at school, although staff has noticed him acting sad and distant over the past few weeks

## THE CSE-IT: (COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION – IDENTIFICATION TOOL)

- The CSE-IT tool is the designated assessment tool for identifying CSEC in Monterey County.
- The tool was developed by West Coast Children's Clinic, a behavioral health clinic in the Bay Area with special expertise working with victims of CSE.
- The tool is being used by the majority of counties in California who have implemented CSEC Programs.
- Locally, the tool is being utilized by multiple partners, including Probation, Community Human Services, and Monterey County Rape Crisis Center.
- Child Welfare will soon be piloting a shortened version of the tool specifically designed for use by Hotline Staff.
- All partners with staff who regularly come in contact with youth ages 10-18 are encouraged to become trained in and utilize the tool.

## TRAINING IS KEY!

**Please share this information with your staff who work with youth directly day-to-day.**

- **Training opportunities are available!** CSEC101 training is available online, and Child Welfare will be hosting a 2 day CSEC102 training in late January. We encourage MCOE staff to participate!
- **The CSE-IT:** We also encourage MCOE to implement use of the CSE-IT assessment tool in its school districts, to better equip school staff to identify victims and report to CPS.
- **Better Safe than Sorry!** Since CSE may not always be obvious or clear, we encourage first responders to report to CPS even if a youth hasn't explicitly disclosed exploitation.
- **Patience and Understanding!** This program is still growing, and we are learning as we go! We encourage staff to be patient with our partners, and ask that our partners do the same with us. At the end of the day – we are all working with the same goal in mind!



## IF YOU NEED US . . .

**Our goal is to build strong relationships with all of our partners in an effort to best serve sexually exploited youth. If you have any questions, or if we can help you in any way, don't hesitate to reach out!**

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