



# CSEC Action Team Update

Alliance Staff Meeting  
July 13, 2015

# CSEC Action Team



- Created by the CWC in 2013
- Purpose: Implement recommendations laid out in 2013 report, *Ending the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Call for Multi-System Collaboration in California*
- 50+ members representing child-serving entities that interface with CSEC, including (but not limited to):
  - County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA)
  - California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
  - Judicial Council of CA
  - Child advocates
  - Parent partners
  - Probation
  - Mental Health
- Conducts state and national research on promising, collaborative approaches to addressing issues faced by CSEC, including prevention and intervention practices
- Develops guidance for counties on how to better serve CSEC

# Recent Legislative Changes



- State
  - CA Governor and Legislature passed SB 855 in June, 2014
  - Clarifies CSEC may be served through child welfare system as victims of child abuse and neglect pursuant to Welf. & Inst. Code (WIC) § 300
  - Creates a CSEC Program (effective July 1, 2015) to serve identified and at-risk CSEC through a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach
  - Appropriates \$5 million in FY 14-15 to train staff and develop interagency protocols, and \$14 million annually thereafter to provide services outlined in the CSEC Program
- Federal:
  - Preventing Sex Trafficking & Strengthening Families Act HR 4980 requires state plans for serving CSEC and data collection and reporting

# CSEC Program

- Counties may elect to participate in the program
- Participating counties must:
  - Develop an interagency protocol to serve CSEC
    - Protocol must include the use of MDTs and describe the provision of services to CSEC
  - Submit a plan to CDSS describing how the county will utilize CSEC Program funding
- In order to prioritize areas with high incidence of CSEC and strategically allocate funding, 10 – 12 counties will be selected
- Once approved, counties may begin drawing down funds to pay for services in Oct., 2015

# CSEC Program: Guiding Principals

- Commercial Sexual Exploitation:
  - Must be understood as abuse and reported as such
  - Should not be criminalized
- Responses to CSEC should be:
  - Victim-centered
  - Trauma-informed
  - Strengths-based
  - Culturally, linguistically, and LGBTQ competent and affirming
  - Committed to efforts that engage CSEC early and often
  - Multidisciplinary, individualized, flexible, and timely
  - Data and outcome driven
- Agency Policies & Procedures should:
  - Ensure and track effective cross-system collaboration at the system and individual-case level
  - Incorporate mechanisms to identify and assess CSEC at key decision points
  - Address the unique physical and emotional safety considerations of CSEC
  - Address unique safety considerations, including vicarious trauma

# CDSS Issues Guidance on CSEC Program

- April 3, 2015 – ACIN I-23-15 released
  - Included **CSEC Model Framework**
    - Background and Purpose
    - Model Interagency Protocol Framework
    - Appendix
- May 29, 2015 – ACL 15-48 released
  - Included **CSEC Practice Guidance Toolkit**
    - MOU Template for CSEC Program
    - Core Competencies for Serving CSEC
    - Holistic Needs of CSEC



WORKING TOGETHER  
TO PROTECT  
EXPLOITED CHILDREN



ALLIANCE  
for CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS

The logo for the Alliance for Children's Rights, featuring a stylized orange silhouette of two children walking.

# CSEC Action Team Next Steps

- Assessing priorities for upcoming year
  - County Convening
  - Community Services for CSEC
  - Survivor Advisory Board
  - Court Guidance
  - Trainings
  - Placement Guidance
  - Prevention



WORKING TOGETHER  
**TO PROTECT**  
EXPLOITED CHILDREN

The logo for the Alliance for Children's Rights. It consists of a stylized orange and white graphic of two children holding hands, positioned above the text "ALLIANCE for CHILDREN'S RIGHTS". The word "ALLIANCE" is in a bold, sans-serif font, "for" is in a smaller, italicized font, and "CHILDREN'S RIGHTS" is in a bold, sans-serif font.

ALLIANCE  
*for* CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS





# CSEC Action Team



- **California Child Welfare Council**

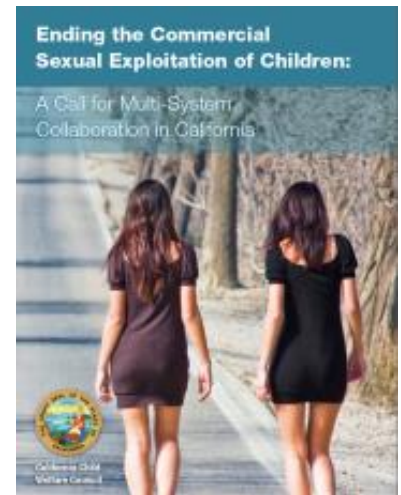
- *“Ending CSEC: A Call For Multi-System Collaboration in California”*

- **CSEC Action Team: Overarching state body to monitor and oversee implementation of recommendations**

- Goal: Ensure a coordinated, collaborative response to CSEC and children at risk for such exploitation in California that is trauma-informed, prioritizes the survivors' voice, and accounts for the stages of change.

- **Key Recommendations:**

- 1) Prevalence & Assessment
- 2) Prevention & Training
- 3) Specialized Services \*
- 4) Multi-System Data & Coordination





# Clarification to CA Welf. & Inst. Code § 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.”