

A report of the
Oakland CSEC
Task Force

THE STATE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN OAKLAND

Presentation to the Life Enrichment Committee
June 9, 2015

DEFINITION OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Academic definition:

“A practice by which a person, usually an adult, achieves sexual gratification, financial gain, or advancement through abuse of exploitation of a child’s sexuality by abrogating that child’s human right to dignity, equality, autonomy, and physical and mental well-being”

“The economic exchanges involved may be either monetary or non-monetary (i.e. food, shelter, drugs) but in every case, involves maximum benefit to the exploiter”

DEFINITIONS

“Romeo Pimping”

- When an exploiter lures the victim with gifts, attention, flirtation, and/or physical pleasure.

“Guerilla Pimping”

- When an exploiter uses force to coerce a victim to perform sexual acts; this often includes kidnapping

“Survival Sex”

- When a child is engaging in sex for food, money, drugs, shelter, etc.
- This is more common amongst male victims

DEFINITION OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

- CSEC is NOT child prostitution
 - Youth Radio “Real Talk” Video Clip from You Tube
 - www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbgU1E96jy0
- Children who are exploited are victims and survivors
- Sexual exploitation is child rape
- Pimps and johns should be referred to as exploiters
- CSEC is child sexual abuse

HOW DO CHILDREN BECOME EXPLOITED?

■ Techniques used by exploiters:

- Seduction
- Isolation
- Coercion
- Violence

■ Risk Factors or Vulnerabilities:

- Childhood sexual abuse
- Homelessness
- Running away
- Inadequate supervision or care
- Inadequate food, clothing and shelter
- Family and/or community history of exploitation
- Exposure to domestic violence in the home

Source:

MISSEY Framing the Issue of The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

DATA ON CSEC IN OAKLAND

- The FBI estimates that 100,000 children are sold for sex each year in the US
- Alameda County identified 486 as at risk for or already involved in commercial sexual exploitation from January 1, 2011 to March 20, 2015. Their research found that:
 - 86% had juvenile arrest history
 - 79% had a runaway history
 - 56% had drug use history
 - 40% were currently in custody or had been in custody of Social Services.
 - 22% had a family criminal history
 - 29% had mental health challenges
- Safety Net is a multi-disciplinary team in Alameda County, California that plans for the safety of children who have been commercially sexually exploited and those who are at-risk for exploitation.
- During 2011, Safety Net reviewed 179 separate cases:
 - 178 were girls
 - Nearly 75% were African American
 - Over 50% of the children were on juvenile probation
 - Close to 1/3 were dependents under the state's child welfare system

DATA ON CSEC IN OAKLAND

- From 2006 to early 2011, the Oakland Police Department:
 - Reported 1,782 sex trafficking cases
 - Obtained CSEC related charges on 71 traffickers
 - Most cases involved multiple traffickers and child victims of CSE
 - Observed a nexus between exploitation & technology in virtually every case
 - Almost all cases involved victim and/or an offender utilizing Internet tools, most notably Backpage.com to further the exploitation

**The Oakland Police Department
rescued 305 children
from 2006-2014**

- In partnership with OPD, BAWAR Sexually Exploited Minors Program
 - Served 202 youth in 2013
 - Served 240 youth in 2014
 - Youth are referred by OPD, the District Attorney's office, and other service providers

What is Oakland doing about CSEC?

Enforcement

Intervention

Prevention

Training

Advocacy

WHAT IS OAKLAND DOING ABOUT CSEC?

ENFORCEMENT

OPD

Alerted by
citizen
complaints
(Vice Hotline)

Operations on
the streets and
at motels

Dear John
Letters

**District
Attorney**

Charge
Perpetrators

Address the
needs of the
exploited youth

CEASE Initiative
with FBI & OPD

PROSECUTING HUMAN TRAFFICKERS

Human trafficking cases prosecuted by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office from January 1, 2006 to March 20, 2015.

Success in the Courtroom



Holding Traffickers Accountable

Defendants
Charged

432

Pending
Defendants

52

Concluded
Defendants

380

Defendants
Convicted

312

Percentage of
Successful Prosecutions

82%

CSEC ENFORCEMENT

WHAT IS OAKLAND DOING ABOUT CSEC?

INTERVENTION

- How are the needs of CSEC victims supported?
 - **Transitioning them from arrest or juvenile justice system:**
 - Girls Court
 - BAWAR Sexually Exploited Minors Program
 - Department of Social Services
 - **Direct services, Mentoring, Advocacy, etc.**
 - MISSEY (“Spa,” mentoring, and resource connection)
 - Love Never Fails (multi-faceted programming and employment through Regina’s Door)
 - Banteay Srei (Specifically serving Southeast Asian youth)
 - Calico (Child abuse services)
 - **Medical:**
 - West Coast Children’s Clinic – Mental Health
 - Native American Health Services & Dr. Aisha Mays
 - Children’s Hospital Teen Clinic
 - **OUSD - Task force to support services and outreach**
 - **SHADE – Survivor network which leads trainings and provides mentoring**
 - **Housing:**
 - DreamCatcher
 - Covenant House
 - **“Night Walks” or “Safety Walks” on the track**
 - Victory Outreach with Councilmember Noel Gallo
 - East Bay Asian Youth Center (EBAYC)
 - Love Never Fails

FUNDING SOURCES

- **How are the needs of CSEC victims funded?**
 - Measure Y/Measure Z (City of Oakland)
 - Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (Federal funds)
 - Alameda County Department of Public Health
 - AC-OCAP – Alameda County - Community Action Partnership
 - Community Development Block Grant
 - Individual Giving and Philanthropic grants

WHAT IS OAKLAND DOING ABOUT CSEC?

PREVENTION

- **Protect California Kids Billboard Campaigns (2014 and 2015)**
 - Collaboration with Clear Channel Outdoor, District Attorney Nancy O'Malley & H.E.A.T Watch, MISSEY, and AbolitionistMom.org



- **South Bay Anti-Trafficking Coalition - SuperBowl Work Group**
 - Oakland service providers are participating in these efforts:
 - Education to hotels and motels
 - Media & billboard awareness campaigns
 - Advocacy campaigns outside the events
 - Preparing for “on-the-spot” victim intervention, such as mental health counseling and safe housing
 - Empowering survivors to be able to speak with the media

WHAT IS OAKLAND DOING ABOUT CSEC?

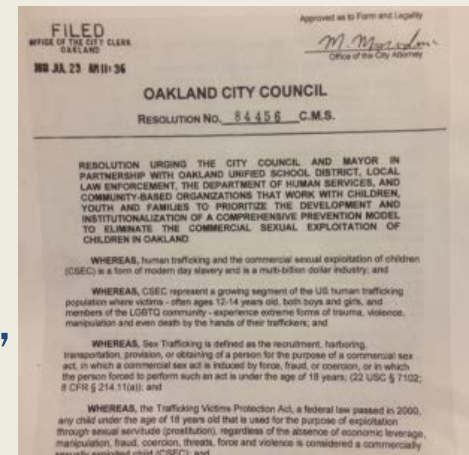
TRAINING

- **Love Never Fails**
 - Agreement with OUSD to do educational trainings in all OUSD middle schools
- **MISSEY (Motivating, Inspiring, Supporting, Serving, Sexually Exploited Youth)**
 - Nationally-recognized trainers
- **Oakland Police Department**
 - At Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils
 - Hotel/Motel Project

WHAT IS OAKLAND DOING ABOUT CSEC?

ADVOCACY: THE OAKLAND CSEC TASK FORCE

- In 2013, Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney passed legislation to form the Oakland CSEC Task Force. The resolution was passed unanimously by the Council on June 18
- Task Force Members: 70 from service providers, OUSD, Alameda County, City Attorney, District Attorney's Office, community organizations, clergy, and more.
- Highlights:
 - April 5, 2014 - Led a "Day of Action" for the implementation of SB 1193 which galvanized 100 volunteers to inform business owners of their responsibility to post signage about CSEC
 - April 20-26, 2015 - Supported events for Sexually Exploited Minors Awareness Week
- The CSEC Task Force is open to the general public. We encourage all elected officials, advocates, and service providers to attend our meetings and engage in our work.



OAKLAND CSEC TASK FORCE GOALS

2015

- Partner with Oakland Youth Council Forum on CSEC
- Co-lead Hotel Motel Project with OPD & CSEC Trainers
- Roundtable with State and Federal Leaders about policy needs

2016

- Another Day of Action for SB 1193
- Large community action for Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Month



NEEDS

- **Victims and survivors need:**
 - Housing for victims
 - Jobs and employment
 - Support services
- **Enhanced Prevention Education & Training**
- **Continued support from Public Safety Parcel Tax - Measure Z**
- **Continued financial support to OPD to do operations to provide the youth with an exit path to safety**
- **Resolution 84456 (the resolution that formed the CSEC Task Force) also called upon the City Administrator to train City staff on the warning signs of CSEC and how to connect youth with appropriate services**

JOIN US IN THE QUEST TO END CSEC!

To join the Oakland CSEC Task Force,
contact Casey Farmer

(Chair of the Oakland CSEC Task Force & Policy Director for
Council President Lynette Gibson McElhaney)

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Meetings are generally held bi-monthly at City Hall