

Los Angeles First Responders Protocol

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

NCCD CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 3, 2016





Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Referrals

(September 2015 to August 2016)

- 791 children identified by DCFS Child Protection (*includes the primary victims and at risk siblings*)
 - 228 (29%) children were evaluated out and did not qualify for an in-person response
 - 563 (71%) children were referred for an in-person response
DCFS



Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Referrals In-Person Response (September 2015 to August 2016)

Of the 563 children referred for an in-person response:

- 148 (26%) children had either an open referral or open case with DCFS
- 415 (74%) children were new to DCFS - County of Los Angeles

CSEC Law Enforcement First Responder Protocol: Purpose



- Create a coordinated response for CSEC in LA when identified by law enforcement
 - ✓ Alert child welfare system
 - ✓ Connect child with specialized advocate
 - ✓ Provide temporary housing, if necessary
 - ✓ Complete comprehensive medical evaluation
- Ensure the response is victim-centered, strengths-based, and accounts for the trauma CSEC endure.
 - ✓ MDT – youth included in placement decision
 - ✓ Safety Planning – contract among providers and youth on steps to take in event the youth is triggered
 - ✓ Min of 90 days of case management



Department of Children and Family Services



CSEC First Responder Protocol – Child Welfare

Law Enforcement treats as victim, not criminal

Call to Child Protection Hotline

Specialized CSW available 24/7 and responds within 90 minutes

Specialized CSEC Advocate arrives within 90 minutes

Child Welfare investigation and assessment

Emergency MDT to address safety and placement issues

Medical Hub Assessment within 72 hours (same day or next day if possible)

- Medical and Mental Health Assessment
- STI Treatment, including HIV prophylaxis
- Pregnancy Assessment and Care
- Follow up referrals and treatment

Initial MDT with 7 days to address triggers and ongoing placement and care needs.

Case transfers to a CSEC specialized Continuing Services CSW

<https://www.lacounty.gov/law-enforcement-first-responder-protocol-for-csec>



CSEC First Responder Protocol – Advocacy

Advocacy Services – Saving Innocence & Aviva Family and Children Services

Advocate available 24/7 to respond within 90 minutes when contacted by DCFS or Probation

Advocates –

- ❖ Serve as a support system to the child
- ❖ Help guide him or her through interactions with the various agencies the child will encounter
- ❖ Immediately provide backpack with necessities –clothes, blanket, stuffed animal, food, toiletries
- ❖ Remain with or immediately available to the child, as needed, for up to 72 hours
- ❖ Provide 90 days case management and stabilization services



DREAM Court

DEDICATION TO RESTORATION THROUGH EMPowerment, ADVOCACY AND MENTORING

Specialized Dependency CSEC Court

All Court staff trained on CSEC

Accepts new CSEC and transfers from other courtrooms

Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) held on each case

MDT Partners – DCFS, DMH, DHS, Probation, County Counsel, Children’s Law Center,

Alliance for Children’s Rights



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Family Services

First Responder Protocol – Benefits

Child treated as victim from law enforcement intervention throughout child welfare services

Specialized staff with an understanding of CSEC and available to child

Better assessment and identification of needs

Collaborative relationships built between agencies has led to:

- Immediate assistance
- Proactive planning
- Coordinated response & intervention
- Shared case planning & services
- Increased arrest and prosecution of exploiters
- Wraparound approach
- Decreased AWOL



Picture drawn by child as a “thank you” to detectives. The transformation from online trafficking victim to this picture speaks volumes.

