



CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL



The next **Child Welfare Council Annual Report** covering the period **from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024**, will feature highlights on the work of the Council and its committees. Please use this template to write your committee report and submit it to Sarah.Saria@jud.ca.gov no later than **October 3, 2024**.

Readers may not be familiar with acronyms and abbreviations. Please fully write out acronyms and abbreviations the first time you use them and be consistent in using the same acronym or abbreviation throughout the rest of the report.

Readers may not be familiar with policies, organizations, or programs that are well known to your committee. Please consider including brief explanations so readers can better understand your report.

July 2023 through June 2024 Activities and Accomplishments: Please briefly list major activities and accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2023-24.

Concerns or Challenges: Describe any issues that you feel need the Council's attention in order to maximize opportunities to address barriers to the work of the Council.

2024 – 2025 Goals & Objectives: Indicate your committee's goals and objectives for the coming year.

Committee/ Task Force Name	California Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (acronym CSEC) Action Team
Purpose	The CSEC Action Team is a dynamic and responsive statewide workgroup that brings together key stakeholders—community based and grassroots organizations, public agencies, lived experience experts, service providers, parent partners, judges, lawyers, and interested community members to address the commercial sexual exploitation (acronym CSE) of children and youth. We meet on a quarterly basis to grow awareness about CSE, identify challenges facing California's young people impacted by CSE, share promising practices, and develop tools and resources. Our goal is to encourage members across California to take action to better serve youth and their families who have been impacted by exploitation.
July 2023 through June 2024	The CSEC Action Team continues to meet on a quarterly basis. The CSEC Action Team meeting participants include representatives from multidisciplinary agencies (e.g. child welfare, mental health, probation, etc.), community based organizations, and lived experience experts. Each

Activities and Accomplishments	<p>quarterly meeting provides information on a specific topic that has been highlighted as an area of interest by CSEC Action Team members. Alongside the specific meeting topic, each meeting goes over regularly scheduled agenda items such as: legislation updates, member report outs and opportunities, Advisory Board report outs on consultations and projects they completed during the prior quarter, and harm reduction quick tips.</p> <p>Please see below for further information about the quarterly meeting topics:</p> <p>QUARTERLY MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Quarterly Meeting 1: Harm Reduction Training - September 2023 (168 registered, 115 attended)</p> <p>At the September 13th CSEC Action Team meeting, Dr. Blacker and Dr. Liles from the University of California Davis Children’s Hospital led a training on applying harm reduction practices when working with youth and families impacted by or vulnerable to CSE. They also highlighted the positive outcomes of using this approach. To tailor the training to the specific needs and concerns of the CSEC Action Team members, a pre-meeting survey was sent to the CSEC Action Team listserv to assess participants’ understanding of harm reduction and gather input on what they would like to learn further about. Additionally, April Grayson, an Advisory Board member from the 2021-2023 cohort, harm reduction practice tips with the attendees.</p> <p>Quarterly Meeting 2: Intersection of Technology and Commercial Sexual Exploitation - December 2023 (178 registered, 129 attended)</p> <p>The December 6, 2023, CSEC Action Team meeting focused on the intersection of technology and CSE. Executive Committee member Maria Contreras presented data on online harassment, reports of exploitation, and how platforms like Instagram and other social media respond to potential exploitation. She also discussed the mental health impacts and highlighted the importance of using harm reduction practices when addressing these issues. The meeting also featured presentations from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (acronym FBI) and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (acronym NCMEC), who provided tips on discussing online safety with youth, using harm reduction strategies to help them navigate online spaces, and sharing resources to support those vulnerable to or impacted by online sexual exploitation.</p> <p>Quarterly Meeting 3: Advisory Board Recognition</p> <p>In addition to the above noted presentations, a recognition ceremony was held for the 2021-2023 Advisory Board cohort to honor their accomplishments. Over their tenure, the cohort</p>
---------------------------------------	---

	<p>completed more than 120 consultations, collaborated with counties to evaluate programs and explore ways to support youth impacted by CSE, and partnered with CDSS to create and update trainings such as the Trauma-Informed Language Webinars and CSEC 101 trainings. They also played a key role in the SB 855 evaluation, contributing to the report that was presented to the legislature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Quarterly Meeting 4: Beyond Surviving: Ethical Practices for Employing & Supporting People with Lived Expertise in the Workplace - March 2024 (119 registered, 86 attended)</p> <p>The March 6th CSEC Action Team meeting provided an in-depth training on hiring and supporting lived experience experts in the workplace. Led by former members of the CSEC Action Team Advisory Board and consultants from the Preventing and Addressing Child Trafficking (acronym PACT) Project, the three-hour online event covered barriers faced by lived experience experts, organizational readiness and culture, essential supports, and key considerations during the hiring process. Maria Contreras, Senior Community Policy Associate at the National Center for Youth Law and Executive Member of the CSEC Action Team, set the context for the meeting, emphasizing that partnering with people with lived experience is vital to developing impactful solutions. Their unique perspectives, she noted, help foster trust, build connections more quickly, and inspire hope in youth.</p> <p>Quarterly Meeting 5: The Role of Law Enforcement in Supporting Youth Experiencing CSE - June 5, 2024 (168 registered, 119 attended)</p> <p>The June 5, 2024, CSEC Action Team meeting focused on the role of law enforcement in supporting youth experiencing commercial sexual exploitation, emphasizing the partnership between law enforcement and community-based organizations. Jason Collins, Detective for the Sacramento Police Department, and Kristie Keifer, Senior Case Manager at Community Against Sexual Harm (acronym CASH) in Sacramento, highlighted the significance of these partnerships and their impacts on youth and adults affected by CSE. They discussed how their collaboration allows them to provide support, recognize victimization, restore agency to survivors, and promote healing. Kristie also provided an overview of CASH's program model and the wide range of services offered to individuals in the Sacramento community. Additionally, Mae Ackerman-Brimberg, Directing Attorney for the National Center for Youth Law's Collaborative Responses to Commercial Sexual Exploitation Initiative, presented data on the continued criminalization of youth affected by CSE. She was joined by Sarah Derrigan, Program Associate at the Vera Institute of Justice's</p>
--	--

	<p>Ending Girls' Incarceration initiative, who offered a national perspective on the drivers of girls' incarceration and efforts to decarcerate them across the country.</p> <p>LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Learning Opportunity 1: Evaluation Findings on California's Efforts to Address the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (SB 855) - October 2023 (134 registered, 120 attended)</p> <p>The October 16th CSEC Action Team learning opportunity focused on the evaluation findings and recommendations for California's CSEC Program, which was established by Senate Bill 855 in 2015. This program requires counties to implement a multidisciplinary approach to identify and support youth impacted by commercial sexual exploitation. Presenters from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project (acronym CCWIP) and the Urban Institute shared insights from the evaluation, while representatives from the California Department of Social Services (acronym CDSS) discussed ongoing efforts to better support counties and address the needs of youth through multidisciplinary teaming. CSEC Action Team Advisory Board members also provided feedback and guidance on next steps to strengthen California's response to CSE.</p> <p>Learning Opportunity 2: Applying Harm Reduction in the Courtroom: Supporting Youth - April 2024 (289 registered, 175 attended)</p> <p>This event, sponsored by the Judicial Council of California, Center for Families, Children & the Courts, in collaboration with the CSEC Action Team, was held on April 29th and focused on applying harm reduction in the courtroom. The panelists provided an overview of harm reduction and discussed how these practices can be used in the courtroom with youth impacted by commercial sexual exploitation (acronym CSE). We hosted breakout rooms for attendees, which included: judges, attorneys, community-based advocates, and social workers to encourage multidisciplinary discussions about harm reduction implementation. This training qualified for 1.5 hours of Minimum Continuing Legal Education (acronym MCLE) and Judicial Officer Continuing Education Units. Mae Ackerman-Brimberg, Directing Attorney for the National Center for Youth Law's Collaborative Responses to Commercial Sexual Exploitation Initiative, set the context for the event by explaining the fundamentals of harm reduction, its core principles, and its importance in courtroom practices.</p>
<p>Concerns or Challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Participation from law enforcement partners is sporadic at best. Their lack of engagement hampers efforts to learn from or improve upon practice.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There continue to be frequent changes among county CSEC-specific service providers and other key stakeholders attending the CSEC Action Team meetings. To ensure that attendees all have a baseline of knowledge a mechanism to provide onboarding materials to new members of the action team is in development. This will foster active and engaged participation and forward movement on the Action Team initiatives. • Whether an in-person or virtual meeting format works best for participants is being evaluated. Many participants have indicated that limited funding makes it challenging for them to attend in-person meetings, while others have mentioned experiencing Zoom fatigue during lengthy virtual sessions. To better understand participants' preferences and find ways to attract and retain members while addressing their needs, attendees have completed surveys, providing valuable data which will inform meeting planning.
2024 - 2025 Goals/Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue uplifting, developing, and disseminating best practices to, identify and serve youth impacted by CSE, particularly the disproportionately impacted populations of youth, and prevent CSE. • Elevate the importance of county and community-based organization partnerships and facilitate those partnerships whenever possible. • Collaborate with counties and community based organizations to encourage partnerships between the two entities to better serve youth and their families impacted by CSE. • Continue identifying and implementing ways to engage and center the Action Team's work on communities' needs, ensuring community-based organizations and underrepresented communities are actively involved, fostering greater inclusivity and responsiveness to their needs. • Center the voices and experiences of people with lived expertise to guide and inform the work of the CSEC Action Team. • Continue to provide informative presentations, trainings and learning opportunities aimed at addressing expressed areas of interest by CSEC Action Team meeting participants.