



CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL



The next **Child Welfare Council Annual Report** covering the period **from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025**, 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 **February 13, 2026**.

Members of the Legislature and the public 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 2024 through June 2025 Activities and Accomplishments: Please briefly list major activities and accomplishments for FY 2024-25.

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.

2025 – 2026 Goals & Objectives: Indicate your committee’s goals and objectives for the coming year.

Committee/ Task Force Name	California Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (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 (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 2024 through June 2025 Activities and Accomplishments	The CSEC Action Team continues to meet on a quarterly basis. 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 quarterly meeting

provides information on a specific topic that has been highlighted as an area of need by CSEC Action Team members and the partnering body to the Action Team, the Advisory Board. Alongside the specific meeting topic, each meeting goes over regularly scheduled agenda items such as: legislative 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.

Beyond quarterly gatherings, the CSEC Action Team also hosts interim learning opportunities designed to enhance or dive deeper into the topics we explore together. During the reporting period, the Action Team held one learning opportunity.

Please see below for further information about the quarterly meeting topics:

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

- **CSE and Immigration: What You Need to Know | September 4, 2024**

(161 Registered, 107 Attended)

The CSEC Action Team delved into the critical intersection of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) and immigration with a presentation from Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project. This session explored the complex factors driving children and youth to migrate to the U.S, the trauma they endure, and why immigrant youth—especially unaccompanied minors—are at increased vulnerability to CSE. The discussion also covered victimization dynamics, available resources, and ways providers can offer support.

- **Supporting Unaccompanied Minors At Risk of and Experiencing CSE | December 4, 2024**

(131 Registered, 94 Attended)

The CSEC Action Team explored how to best support unaccompanied minors at risk of and experiencing commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). The meeting highlighted the way government agencies and community-based organizations providing legal representation and other forms of aid can assist youth. Panelists discussed the different considerations and strategies service providers need to employ when serving youth in this intersection of experience. The meeting also featured a presentation from the Office of Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) which provided an overview of the process to refer a youth to obtain a letter from OTIP that allows them to receive benefits that immigrants with asylum status have access to. This meeting built on the September and November CSEC Action Team meetings focused on immigration.

- **Peer-to-Peer Recruitment: A Lived Experience Panel Discussion | March 3, 2025**

(136 Registered, 95 Attended)

The CSEC Action Team held a powerful panel discussion led by experts with lived experience, including members of the CSEC Action Team’s Advisory Board. The conversation focused on recognizing the signs of peer-to-peer recruitment, applying harm reduction practices, how biases impact responses to youth, and reframing approaches to supporting both youth who are recruiting and those vulnerable to recruitment. Alongside the panel, important legislative updates were shared, including overviews of new laws related to CSE and child sexual abuse material, with key insights on AB 1394 and AB 1831.

- **Supporting LGBTQIA2S+ Youth Impacted by Commercial Sexual Exploitation | June 4, 2025**

(169 Registered, 106 Attended)

The CSEC Action Team held a training dedicated to understanding the Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) of LGBTQIA2S+ Youth. The session focused on helping providers create inclusive and affirming services and offering practical strategies to support youth impacted by CSE. The session explored the intersection of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression (SOGIE) and exploitation, covering key topics such as the unique risks and needs of LGBTQIA2S+ youth, emerging data and trends, vulnerabilities and pathways that lead to exploitation, barriers to timely identification and support, and actionable recommendations for providers. Based on the need for more training on addressing peer- to-peer recruitment, the Action team, Advisory Board, and the UC Davis Child and Adolescent Abuse Resource and Evaluation (CAARE) Diagnostic and Treatment Center are collaborating to create a formal two-part training focused on recruitment to be launched in the fall of 2025 and 2026.

Learning Opportunity

- **Unaccompanied Minors in the U.S.: Legal Protections, Challenges, and Advocacy Efforts | November 13, 2024**

(117 Registered, 74 Attended)

The CSEC Action Team held a training focused on exploring the complex migration journey of unaccompanied immigrant children seeking safety in the United States. Attendees gained insight into the realities these children face in federal immigration custody while detained in Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) facilities. The training also covered ORR’s vetting process for sponsors, the difficulties unaccompanied children experience when transitioning into life with sponsors living in the community, and the legal protections that apply to unaccompanied children. Attendees also heard about ongoing advocacy from the National Center for Youth Law, working to

	<p>improve the treatment and release of unaccompanied children in federal custody.</p>
<p>Concerns or Challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Enforcement Engagement: Participation from law enforcement partners continues to be sporadic at best. Their lack of engagement hampers efforts to learn from or improve upon practice. • Onboarding New Members: We have a core group of regular attendees at the CSEC Action Team meetings but always have new names and faces in attendance. As our outreach through different channels has increased and we have created new outreach materials, we have seen a slight uptick in attendance and new attendees based on meeting topics. To address a gap in knowledge of new attendees, we developed an onboarding document that orients them to the Action Team’s multi-disciplinary mission, leadership structure, and our key partners. We have also created the CSEC Action Team website which serves as a central hub for our community, providing on-demand access to all our materials, resources, and meeting recordings. We are now focused on ensuring that stakeholders are fully aware of and empowered to use this comprehensive resource. • Meeting Format Optimization: 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 for meeting format (in-person vs. virtual) and find ways to attract and retain members while addressing their needs, attendees have completed surveys, providing valuable data which will inform meeting planning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update: We have successfully adapted our meeting format to meet member needs. Since September 2024, we have held all quarterly meetings and trainings virtually. This format has allowed us to maintain excellent attendance and has proven effective in enabling us to remain responsive to the specific desires and constraints of CSEC Action Team members.
<p>2025 - 2026 Goals/Objectives</p>	<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. • Strengthen understanding of and responses to the intersection of CSE and labor trafficking by supporting providers in identifying

	<p>youth experiencing multiple forms of exploitation and responding to their overlapping vulnerabilities and needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
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