

KING COUNTY CSEC PROGRAM 2019

BRIEF PROJECT OVERVIEW: The mission of the King County CSEC Program and King County CSEC Task Force is to ensure the safety and support of commercially sexually exploited children and to prevent further exploitation. We seek to achieve our goal by providing victim services to youth ages 12-24 throughout the county through a collaborative approach.

SIGNIFICANT PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

Sustainability:

- Website: King County CSEC Program and King County CSEC Task Force now have their own website. www.KingCountyCSEC.org. The website features the following elements: Advocates, Awareness, ConnectUP, Evaluation, Red Flags, Trainings, and Events. This website does not feature services so as not to compete with the AGO's website: www.WATraffickingHelp.org.
- Funding: CSEC Task Force Coordinator and Program Manager has secured ongoing funding for most grant funded activities. These include: training, foster care, and prevention work. The evaluation is set to expire but additional grant funding is being pursued.

Trainings :

- Trainings and materials provided **FREE** throughout King County to participants.
- **CSEC 101: Responding to the Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Youth**
- **CSEC 102: And Boys Too**
- **CSEC 103: At the Margins: The Sex Trafficking of LGBTQ+ Youth (**NEW**)**
- **CSEC 201: Engaging Men to End Commercial Sexual Exploitation**
- **CSEC 202: Understanding Running Away Behavior (**NEW**)**
- **CSEC 301: Engaging and Serving Youth Using Motivational Interviewing**

Identification:

- Largely due to ongoing training and the development and implementation of the new Department of Children Youth and Families CSEC screening tool, CSEC Liaison identified 276 youth in DCYF's Regions 3 and 4.

ConnectUP:

- Partnership between Casey Family Programs, Department of Children Youth and Families, King County Superior Court, YMCA Accelerator, YouthCare, and the Organization for Prostitution Survivors to provide specialized supportive services to state dependent children identified as confirmed or at high risk of CSE and their caregivers.
- Website: www.ConnectUPWA.org

Website:

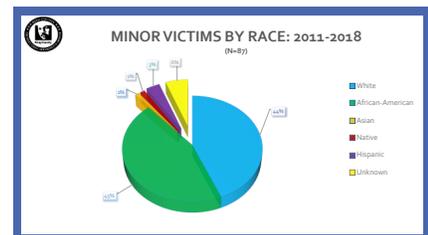
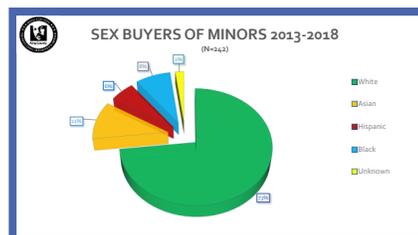
- Services: www.WATraffickingHelp.org
- King County Specifics: www.KingCountyCSEC.org

PROJECT CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED:

FOSTERING: While many individuals have expressed interest in fostering CSE youth, and recruitment efforts have resulted in families being connected for general foster home licensing, no families have stepped forward as designated CSEC foster homes. Recruitment is now focused on survivors. Washington Survivor Re-entry is helping to vacate criminal convictions sustained by survivors during their trafficking experience thus increasing the potential foster parent pool.

FUNDING: All programs are currently seeking ongoing funding. There have been varying degrees of success. Currently there is no ongoing funding for evaluation.

RACIAL DISPROPORTIONALITY: There has been a struggle to have an open conversation about equity and social justice around CSE issues in the community. Local data points to a disproportionate share of buyers of minors identifying as middle aged, highly educated, white men of privilege. The minors they are exploiting are disproportionately youth of color, LGBTQ+, and/or who have experienced homelessness or are unstably housed.



HOUSING CRISIS: Seattle and King County are experiencing a housing crisis and the CSE work is still too siloed from the discussions on housing affordability. Progress is being made. Victims are majority minority while buyers are majority middle aged educated white

DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATION ACTIVITIES AND ANY PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF NOTE

- On track to conduct psychometric validation study of locally developed screening measure:
Obtained IRB approval to receive data on all CSEC screenings conducted in Child Welfare throughout Washington State
- Submitted an academic paper about our analyses of administrative data on 84 youth identified as CSEC in Child Welfare (manuscript is in revise and resubmit status). We found very high rates of runaway (90%), frequent runaways (average = 9), and high rates of juvenile detention (76%) and frequent detention (average = 9 detention episodes).
- Completed the third round of Network Analysis data collection, currently analyzing this data to see how the network of agencies and organizations that support CSEC (including Child Welfare) work together on referrals and case planning, and to see how these networks have changed over the last five years of grant funding.
- Analyzed data from our experiment to detect whether the perceived gender of youth impacts whether the youth are identified as CSEC or not. Results did not support our hypothesis that female-perceived youth would be more likely to be identified as CSEC than male-perceived youth. However, we did discover that participants who attended our CSEC trainings over the last year are better able to detect CSEC (prior to the training) than participants who attended our trainings in prior years.

Project Successes:

Time Period January 2018 – December 2018

Referrals: ≈ 190

Enrollments: ≈ 70

The Bridge Collaborative provides a cooperative approach to victim services and combines the resources and services of five local agencies:

- Friends of Youth
- Nexus Youth and Families
- Organization for Prostitution Survivors
- YouthCare (lead organization)
- Kent Youth and Family Services ***NEW***

Lessons Learned:

- Task Force membership continues to grow. Meetings can have upwards of 75 people present. Task Force meetings are now about information sharing, networking, and building partnership.
- As more people, organizations, and funders come to the table it is critical to keep a clear mission and to educate Task Force members. Every person has a role to fill.
- We need to be more survivor centered and not survivor consulted. The motto is “more W2s, less 1099s”.
- There has been significant staff turnover at key agencies over the past 12 months, including the Attorney General’s Office, the King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, the Organization for Prostitution Survivors, and more. The 3rd and final installment of the social network analysis may provide input to show if the program has become system based as opposed to relationship based.

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