

DESCHUTES COUNTY PROTOCOL - CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING AND COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC)

The Deschutes County MDT considers child sex trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) as a form of abuse. As such, the MDT will follow current child abuse protocols and guidelines listed in the Deschutes County MDT Child Abuse Protocols with the additional information below.

DEFINITION

Child Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC): These terms include, but are not limited to, crimes or attempted crimes specified in ORS chapters 163 and 167, when any party receives or offers anything of value (such as money, drugs, goods, or services) in exchange for any sexual conduct and facilitating, permitting, or aiding in any way the use of a child in any pornographic or sexually provocative material. They also include any acts that constitute the crime of prostitution, advertisement for escort services, and employment in any adult oriented business or permitting a child to remain therein. The physical movement of a child is not required.

DESCHUTES COUNTY CSEC RESPONSE TEAM

The Deschutes County MDT acknowledges and works collaboratively with the Deschutes County CSEC Response Team with the goal to support and encourage a collaborative effort among local law enforcement, prosecution, victim service providers and a diverse group of practitioners. Together, these groups provide comprehensive services in order to discover and respond effectively to child sex trafficking in pursuit of the most comprehensive response to the crime and to victims. Ideally, the members of the Deschutes County CSEC Response Team are the same MDT agency members designated to attend the Deschutes County MDT Case Review meetings. Additional community partners may be invited to MDT Case Review meetings as appropriate to discuss the investigation and prosecution of the cases as well as coordinated victim support and services. Any members attending the Case Review must be approved in advance by the District Attorney's Office, Law Enforcement, and the MDT Coordinator/Chair.

Hi Rich,

So sorry for the delay. Attached is the plan we created while at the training in MN and then updates are bulleted below.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Shelly

Deschutes County Child Abuse MDT
Action Plan Updates as of May, 2017

1. The team has been meeting regularly and we spend half of our time reviewing cases (investigation and prosecution related) and half of our time working on a more collaborative response to victim services. We meet monthly, same time and place to avoid confusion. Only LEA and CA MDT specific members attend the first half, second part of meeting is open to anyone working on CSEC related work within the broader MDT community.
2. We created a simple addendum to our CA MDT protocols related to CSEC. See second attachment. These may seem vague and broad but they met the needs for keep the CSEC Task Force connected to the CA MDT.
3. Created a shared training google docs site where anyone on the team can upload CSEC training materials and they can also post where they are providing trainings. We have started with our MDT partners, agency board members, staff and leaders in the community.
4. One of our youth serving organization recently received a large CSEC grant (federal I believe) and they are taking the lead in creating a victim services map for CSEC survivors. They hired an experienced CSEC bi-lingual program coordinator and are making good progress on our coordinated efforts. We are in the process of creating a MOU for all victim service agencies working with youth who have services for CSEC victims.

Overall, the NCJTC training in Minnesota solidified our MDT's commitment to identifying CSEC victims in our community and working collectively to investigate, prosecute, and most important, quickly respond to children and youth impacted by CSEC. This training specifically gave us the tools and time to create a community response plan which has been the blueprint for our work in Deschutes County. We have had to spend less time on identifying gaps and more time on making changes to our CSEC response which always benefits those in greatest need of immediate services. And, to top it off, one of our victim serving agencies now has grant money and staff time to take this plan to a whole new level. We are so grateful for the time and information we gained as a team...and we wouldn't be where we are today had we not attended together. We recommend this training to any MDT who wants to invest in the most vulnerable members in their community, those children and youth who have been, or could be, negatively impacted by CSEC.

Shelly

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Deschutes County CSEC Response Team Community Response Plan

Statement of Need: According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, in the year 2015, 1 in 5 of the 11,800 reported runaways was sex trafficked. Deschutes County's Community Response Plan has been developed and agreed upon by the collective CSEC Response Team. Each of the agency's respective members has brought this plan back to their respective agency and they are responsible for ensuring the implementation of this plan. This plan was developed and designed in conjunction with the National Criminal Justice Training Institute's best practice recommendations. It is important for our response team and the collective community to understand that the victims of child sex trafficking will not react as usually seen in "typical" child sexual assault cases. The children do not see themselves as victims and will likely be discovered through investigative means versus through a disclosure process. Given that research shows that most children enter the life at the age of 12 and it takes on average 5-9 years for a victim to be discovered in sex trafficking cases, KIDS Center would be willing to continue providing services for these children and youth adults.

Community Response Plan: After receiving an extensive training around the national best practice recommendations for response to child sex trafficking, the Deschutes County CSEC Response Team recommends the following protocol.

At the receipt of initial concern for CST, law enforcement is immediately contacted in the jurisdiction for which the potential crime occurred. Once a member of our response team is made aware of the concern, a referral will be

made to Chris Morin with BPD so that he can offer his expertise and knowledge on this issue. He will also ensure that our response protocol is followed.

If the call is flagged as potential CST prior to first response, LE will ensure an advocate is present for initial contact with the victim. If the concern for CST is not discovered until after initial discovery is made, LE will contact an advocate to immediately respond and provide supportive services and referrals. It is important to note that it will take a team of advocates to meet the needs of this population. The system based advocate will complete referrals to appropriate community advocates for support and service delivery.

Given the state of trauma the CST victim may potentially be in, it is this response team's recommendation that the advocate(s) are utilized as facilitators through the investigative, prosecution and treatment processes.

It's the assumption of the response team that law enforcement utilize all available resources to ensure a comprehensive investigation and corroboration of evidence.

While the above outlines ideal recommendations for the flow of the case. Law enforcement and prosecutors are ultimately the decision makers within the case investigation and its structure.

Role of the KIDS Center: The CSEC Response Plan will be agreed upon and adopted in to the Child Abuse MDT policies and procedures.

The CSEC Response Team acknowledges the importance of a sound forensic interview in child sex trafficking cases. The KIDS Center is the primary agency responsible to ensuring the child victim receives a forensic interview. It is the NCJTC best practice recommendations that there be flexibility around the timing and location of the forensic interview. For these specific cases, the tradition CAC model will not work. The timing and location on the interview should be based on the best interest of the child victim. While usual practice is to have the forensic

interview as close in time to the child's disclosure as possible, this may not be best for victims in CSEC Cases. Child victims may still be struggling with their removal from the life and may find that the forensic interview is too soon. Same goes for the location of the interview. Traditional CAC's are child friendly. Victims removed from the life may feel this location is too childish and may discourage disclosures. If the jurisdiction falls within the FBI, the FBI determines how and when the interview will take place. KIDS Center holds an MOU with the FBI to allow either agency to interview the children.

Modifications are needed for the forensic interview in these cases. The forensic interview will need to start with an extended period of rapport building. This should not include the typical rapport questions and should instead include some "street cred." It's also important for everyone involved to understand that the traditional view of the single forensic interview is not ideal in these cases. What works best is the use of the extended forensic interview process, which includes multiple contacts over time. The goal of the forensic interview is to establish the criminal enterprise. The criminal enterprise includes recruitment, relationship of the victim with the pimp, who taught the victim the "rules," knowledge of others working with the pimp, details of photos of sex acts, and where the victim has been. In these discovered cases, it may be beneficial to introduce evidence as a means to prompt the victim to discuss a particular topic. KIDS Center will commit to providing training specific to these changes both to community partners and the community.

Most importantly, KIDS Center will play a critical role in the prevention of child sex trafficking through their continued efforts in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of child abuse. KC will begin to flag "high risk for CST" after child abuse forensic interviews. This would then be reviewed by the MDT.

Role of Child Protective Services: Complete comprehensive safety assessments on families which determine their ability to be safe and stable homes. With the passing of new federal law, Oregon Child Welfare has improved their processes regarding concerns for Child Sex Trafficking. Our Deschutes Response Team needs

to work with local Child Welfare offices to improve information sharing between DHS and the response team. The response team is willing to support Child Welfare with any of the gaps they have in being successful with implementing their new policies. Our response team would also like to utilize the established human trafficking screening tool designed by DHS to ensure consistency in screening methods throughout the county.

Role of Advocates: Victim advocates play an important role in Child Sex Trafficking cases. Our response team recognizes that this population will need to build a relationship and trust with someone prior to providing a full disclosure. While these children may not identify themselves as victims, they still need the services provided by advocates.

It's recommended that when a referral is received advocates should respond within the same day. Advocates should continue to pursue contact for approximately 6 months. Contacts with this population will need to follow more informal communication patterns- texting, social meeting, after hours in person contact etc. Deschutes Victims' Assistance acknowledges that some changes will need to be made to existing practices to make this happen.

Trauma and Mental Health Considerations: The main goal of our response for the victims is to empower them and help them recover. Our response team acknowledges that victims who have lived in the life and are identified as a child sex trafficking victim are experiencing complex trauma. There are seven domains that are impaired when victims experience complex trauma. The seven affected domains are attachment, biology, emotional regulations, dissociation, behavioral control, cognition and self-concept. As part of empowerment, our response team will help put control back in the victims' hands. We will help restore a sense of predictability in their schedule. Each victim will have a safety plan that addresses physical and emotional safety.

Influencing Policy and Legislation: According to the National Sex Offender Registry, Oregon has the 3rd highest per capita of registered sex offenders. Our

response team identified that while improvements can be made to existing laws, this focus doesn't need to be our main priority. However, in an effort to continue to move forward, KIDS Center will connect with the statewide CAC lobbyist. DA's Office talked about the barriers in child pornography cases and a desire to improve reporting laws. There is also a gap between the national standard of Safe Harbor laws and Oregon. While it isn't Deschutes County's practice to prosecute this minor's for prostitution, it would be a benefit to this community to have the addition of this law.

Changing Organization Practices: KIDS Center will need to make some organization changes to ensure their policies align with the dual tracks that child abuse cases can take. Executive Director, Shelly Smith will take lead on making these changes. Once approved, KIDS Center in conjunction with our response team will provide training to community partners and the community about the new processes.

Law Enforcement has identified the need to introduce some screening mechanisms into their daily practices. This human trafficking screening tool would be applied to cases taken on by patrol and would also be used with runaway referrals.

Victims' Assistance has identified the need to get some additional technology that would support assisting this population more. Currently, our advocate team only uses our personal cell phones to contact victims. This places us at risk for our personal phones being subpoenaed. VAP Program Coordinator will update 2017 fiscal budget to provide for two cell phones and monthly plans: one for the Program Coordinator and one for on call.

Fostering Coalitions and Networks: As the designated lead agency, the DA's Office has established that all partners who play a critical role in the investigation, treatment and prevention of CST need to ensure representation and compliance with the Response Team. After receiving best practice recommendations from National Criminal Justice Training Center, our response team has identified some

Victims' Assistance has identified the need to establish a more formalized teaming protocol for all of the advocates within the community. It will take more than one advocate to support this population.

There are several existing agencies who have a stake in assisting with CST. The community response team needs to reach out to these stakeholders for assistance in identifying safe places/ shelters for CST victims. Guardian Group and In Our Backyard will be critical in assisting our team in identifying safe homes for these children to go.

Educating Providers: Our CSEC Response Team has identified the need to educate providers using a MDT approach. Given our practice recommendations, we will start meeting with providers including hospitals, immediate care, hotels, treatment providers, transportation, homeless shelters and service industry providers. Guardian Group, a local non-profit, has crafted a formal outreach and training program targeted for the hotel and service industry. This will be implemented April 1, 2016.

Promoting Communication Education: Our community is already robust with active prevention and education programs aimed specifically around child abuse. Our response team would like to pursue adding some talking points with additional information to existing training programs so that we can capitalize on existing connections.

Our Response Team would like to pursue adding education and training outreach into the schools. Currently, there is no school representative on our team, so we need to illicit their participation and feedback in terms of getting education into the schools.