

KING COUNTY CSEC PROGRAM 2015

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 through a collaborative approach to providing victim services to youth ages 12-24 throughout the county.

Once identified, exploited and at-risk youth are referred to a community advocate who is a case manager specializing in working with CSEC. This advocate will follow the youth as they move through systems including Juvenile Court and Child Welfare. Additionally, the advocate can be instrumental in facilitating Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) that wrap around the youth when a critical need arises.

Critical to our mission is the ability to identify at-risk and exploited youth. Therefore, we are focusing on training individuals who may encounter an at-risk or exploited youth and we are developing a universal screening tool to be used in both Juvenile Court and Child Welfare.

SIGNIFICANT PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

Program Activities:

Contract with People of Color Against Aids Network (POCAAN) to provide ethnic specific outreach services.

Contract with YouthCare to develop the Train the Trainer Curriculum.

Contract with Center for Children and Youth Justice to provide YouthCare's training statewide.

Creation of additional subcommittees.

Creation of Law Enforcement Webinar.

Hiring of the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children's Liaison, Children's Administration Region 2.

Activities Provided by University of Washington Evaluation Team:

Organizational Network Analysis & Task Force Collaborative Capacity Evaluation.

Training Evaluation: Awareness, Knowledge Gain, & Satisfaction.

CSEC MDT Best Practices development (lit review & semi-structured interviews).

Standardized client progress monitoring tool.

Training Activities:

CSEC Trainings Held:

Youth Behavioral Health Agency Trainings:

6 hour Valley Cities (10.30.14)

4 hour RAYS (12.16.14)

4 hour SEYFS (3.26.15)

4 hour RAYS (4.21.15)

Community Trainings: Service Providers, DSHS/CA, NGOs, & Non-Profits:

14 hour (4.27.15 & 4.28.15)

14 hour (6.29.15 & 6.30.15)

14 hour (7.20.15 & 7.21.15)

7 hour (7.30.15)

Community Information Sessions Held:

Uniting for Youth: Systems Integration (4.17.15)

Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction: Connecting with Care

Conference (5.15.15)

University of Washington Human Trafficking Forum (5.19.15)

Seattle Against Slavery (5.28.15)

Project Challenges Encountered:

Contract negotiations and the hiring of new positions have taken longer than anticipated. The partners in the King County CSEC program were faced with the dilemma of doing the job quickly or doing the job correctly. It was a unanimous decision to proceed with care in order to assure that the best individuals and agencies were selected.

The King County CSEC Program's structure presents a unique challenge. Currently all advocacy services are provided by the Bridge Collaborative (Auburn Youth Resources, Friends of Youth, Organization for Prostitution Survivors, and YouthCare). The King County CSEC Program relies upon the goodwill of the Bridge Collaborative as no funds are paid from King County to the Bridge Collaborative for advocacy services. Contract requirements from Bridge Collaborative funders require that all clients sign a confidentiality agreement stating that no personal information about the youth will be shared. This contractual requirement has created a difficulty in data collection. All parties are working in good faith to resolve this issue.

DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATION ACTIVITIES AND ANY PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF NOTE

Youth Survey:

The CSEC Evaluation Subcommittee (UW evaluation team, YouthCare, Superior Court, and Valley Cities) meets approximately once a month. We have

developed a brief tool for *progress monitoring* to be collected by the Community Advocates of the Bridge Collaborative. Collection will begin in August 2015.

Project Successes:

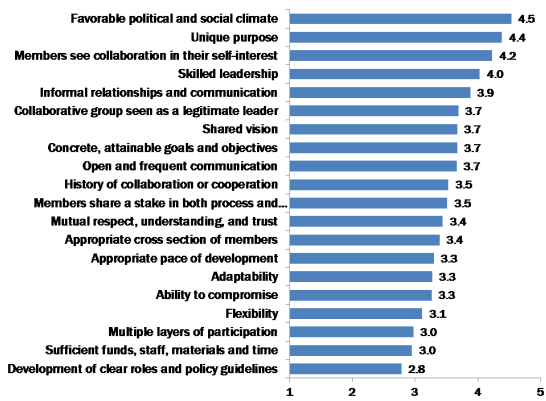
135 unique youth ages 12-24 have been referred to services through the Bridge Collaborative's CSEC hotline (1.855.400.CSEC) or by email to communityadvocate@youthcare.org.

81% of referred youth receive follow up services.

97 Multi-Disciplinary Teams have been called to address critical needs of Bridge Collaborative enrolled youth.

Male, female, and transgender youth have been served.

King County CSEC Task Force Wilder Collaboration Scale:



We administered the Wilder Collaboration Scale to the CSEC Task Force and 31 organizations completed the collaboration survey. Results indicate that CSEC Task Force members believe there are multiple clear strengths that support the collaborative efforts of the Task Force. Environmental characteristics such as political climate and social context are considered very strong, the Task Force's sense of purpose is strong, communication within the Task Force is rated as very good, and the Task Force members are thought to be the "right" organizations with robust skills, attitudes, opinions, culture, capacity, leadership, and "people power" to get the job done. The two general areas of weakness are lack of sufficient funding and, most significantly, a lack of clear management structure, clarity and deliberate goal setting, process of deci-

sion making, and well-defined operational systems. Action steps taken by the Task Force to address these issues include the development of subcommittees with clear topic areas to focus on, and increased structure around activities and decision making.

Lessons Learned:

Frequent in-person meetings with key individuals have proved to be extremely valuable. Often tone or context can be lost in an email and having frequent in-person meetings has resolved many issues that have arisen because of miscommunication in email.

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