DCYF Missing & Exploited Youth Program: Response to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

19th Annual Becca Conference

www.dcyf.wa.gov
Missing & Exploited Youth (MEY) Program Manager
Cameron Norton

- Joined DCYF in 2008 – working in, then supervising Family Reconciliation, Family Voluntary Services, and Child Protective Services
- Program oversight of MEYP, Missing From Care, and CSEC since December 2020
- Supervises the MEY Liaisons for the East and West side of the state.
Both engage in community based Multidisciplinary Teams and Task Force Meetings for their respective side of the state; connect with regional DCYF staff regarding CSEC issues and resources; collaborate in individualized case staffing.
Federal Definition: Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age (22 USC § 7102).
Commercial Sexual Exploitation

“The term ‘commercial sex act’ means any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person” (22 U.S.C. 7102 (4))

Any sex act  In exchange for  Anything of value

COMMERCIAL SEX ACT + MINOR = TRAFFICKING
2003
Washington State became the first state to criminalize human trafficking with HB 1175: Prohibiting Trafficking in Persons

2010
Washington State passed the Safe Harbor Bill (SB6476), giving law enforcement the ability to divert Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) from the courts to programs specializing in housing and comprehensive services. But while the statute acknowledged trafficked youth as victims, it still defined them as criminals, vulnerable to charges for prostitution.

2020
Washington State enacts HB 1775 which exempts minors from arrest and charges of prostitution (by 2024), establishes two receiving centers and directs DCYF to hire a state program manager and two liaisons.
Washington State Definition: CSAM

Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor (CSAM) is when a person solicits, offers, requests to engage, or provides anything of value to a minor or a third person as compensation for a minor having engaged in sexual conduct with him or her. (RCW 9.68A.100)

Consent of a minor to any sexual conduct does not constitute a defense
CPS Involvement With CSEC Cases

CPS only becomes involved with a trafficked youth when there are allegations of commercial sexual exploitation/trafficking perpetrated by a parent or guardian, or allegations that the parent or guardian is failing to protect the child from the perpetrator(s).
# Regional Missing From Care Leads and Locator Staff (** DENOTES CSEC LEADS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Spokane</td>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>Joshua Koutecky**</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joshua.koutecky@dcyf.wa.gov">joshua.koutecky@dcyf.wa.gov</a></td>
<td>509-413-7106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Spokane</td>
<td>Locator</td>
<td>Jon Naught</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jon.naught@dcyf.wa.gov">jon.naught@dcyf.wa.gov</a></td>
<td>509-828-6831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Richland</td>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>Brittany Lenihan**</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brittany.lenihan@dcyf.wa.gov">brittany.lenihan@dcyf.wa.gov</a></td>
<td>509-578-9234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Yakima</td>
<td>Locator</td>
<td>Michelle Moore</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michelle.moore@dcyf.wa.gov">michelle.moore@dcyf.wa.gov</a></td>
<td>509-823-6544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mount Vernon</td>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>Sarah Shaffer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sarah.shaffer@dcyf.wa.gov">sarah.shaffer@dcyf.wa.gov</a></td>
<td>360-399-9842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Everett</td>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>Amanda Bernard**</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amanda.bernard@dcyf.wa.gov">amanda.bernard@dcyf.wa.gov</a></td>
<td>425-308-1010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Smokey Point</td>
<td>Locator</td>
<td>David Martz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:david.martz@dcyf.wa.gov">david.martz@dcyf.wa.gov</a></td>
<td>425-599-5074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MLK/Seattle</td>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>Bo Xayavong</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bo.xayavong@dcyf.wa.gov">bo.xayavong@dcyf.wa.gov</a></td>
<td>253-278-1374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Locator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tacoma</td>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>Angela Hodges</td>
<td><a href="mailto:angela.hodges@dcyf.wa.gov">angela.hodges@dcyf.wa.gov</a></td>
<td>253-312-4906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lakewood</td>
<td>Locator</td>
<td>Abbie Tauvell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:abbie.tauvell@dcyf.wa.gov">abbie.tauvell@dcyf.wa.gov</a></td>
<td>253-244-4353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bremerton</td>
<td>Locator</td>
<td>Michael Stamp**</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michael.stamp@dcyf.wa.gov">michael.stamp@dcyf.wa.gov</a></td>
<td>360-509-2671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tumwater</td>
<td>Locator</td>
<td>Sarah Lindquist</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sarah.lindquist@dcyf.wa.gov">sarah.lindquist@dcyf.wa.gov</a></td>
<td>360-947-7897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>Locator</td>
<td>Eric Anderson**</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eric.anderson@dcyf.wa.gov">eric.anderson@dcyf.wa.gov</a></td>
<td>360-869-9869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>Spokane</td>
<td>HQ PM</td>
<td>Cameron Norton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cameron.norton@dcyf.wa.gov">cameron.norton@dcyf.wa.gov</a></td>
<td>509-991-0748</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For DCYF: If the youth has indicators of CSEC, they should be staffed with Regional Leads early and often.
Missing & Exploited Youth Program
Partnering with community agencies and providers

MEY Program actively engages with and participates on task forces and committees concerned with CSEC issues.

MEY Program collaborates with relevant agencies and community organizations, including legal and criminal justice system entities.

This community outreach and integration into the work of the regions serves as a conduit for enhanced collaboration and strong case planning that will improve communication, service delivery, and outcomes for exploited youth.
Responding to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
Myth

Only women and girls can be victims and survivors of sex trafficking

Source: Polaris Project @ https://polarisproject.org/myths-facts-and-statistics/
Victim and survivors are of all genders. Available national research suggests that 50% of victims/survivors are boys.

Human Trafficking & Sexual Exploitation Affects Every...

- Community
- Race
- Gender Identity
- Sexual Orientation
- Education Level
- Economic Class

Adapted from Responding to Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Youth, Content Created by Leslie Briner, MSW with contributions from Norene Roberts, MSSW
HOWEVER

Exploitation **DISPROPORTIONATELY** affects young people, people who are/have been involved with child welfare or have been incarcerated, people experiencing poverty, homelessness, and discrimination; particularly those who identify as BIPOC and/or LGBTQ2IA+

BECAUSE

Labor Exploitation & the Commercial Sex Trade is **BUILT ON A FOUNDATION** of Patriarchy, Poverty, Racism, Heterosexism, Colonialism, and Systematic Oppression.

Adapted from Responding to Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Youth, *Content Created by Leslie Briner, MSW with contributions from Norene Roberts, MSSW*
Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Identity

LGBTQ+

7x more likely to have traded sex for a place to stay

8x for transgender youth

Risk Factors

- History of Abuse, Neglect
- Lack of Support
- Mental Health Issues
- Physical disability
- Runaway
- Homeless
- Poor self esteem
- Substance use
- Gang involvement

- Developmental disabilities
- Not doing well in school
- Lack of belonging
- System involved
- Unstable living environment
- Conflict with parents or caregiver
- Questioning Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity
- Incarcerated parent
- Lack of financial resources
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recruiting Behaviors</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The selling of “The Dream”</td>
<td>Lures of love, affection, belonging, money, safety, protection and family; “Partying”, getting hair or nails done, shopping and buying new clothes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploiting previous assault history</td>
<td>Seasoning happens through sexual abuse/assault including any sex that violates boundaries or consent, or pornography of such acts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flashing money or status symbols</td>
<td>Asking specific questions to identify youth who are vulnerable; Do they have weak familial connections and/or have unmet needs?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isolating vulnerable youth, secretive</td>
<td>Breaking down &amp; rebuilding the youths identity; adopting street names and making them feel special and included</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Conversation About Indicators

- Chronically truant/runaway/homeless/gang-involved youth
- Multiple cell phones or social media profiles
- Excess amount of cash
- Having expensive or consistent goods or services with no known means to pay for them
- Hotel room key/keycards
- Signs of branding (tattoos, jewelry)
- Dramatic personality changes including evasive behavior around a new romantic partner or new group of friends
- Lack of knowledge of a given community or location
- Having multiple kinds of condoms, lube, wet wipes, sex toys
Trauma Is

An overwhelming stress that exceeds our ability to cope or integrate emotions connected to an experience; can be acute, chronic, complex

The harmful interruption of safety, dignity, agency, and belonging; fundamental needs of all people

Can be individual, collective, systemic, intergenerational, and historical
Am I sick? I am so ugly...

COVID

Guilt

Where do I sleep tonight?

What if I end up alone?

No one cares...

YOLO

mom says I am lazy...

Worried about missing school

No support system

Exploited and afraid to tell

Random thoughts

drugs

discrimination

Hungry

sad

Tired

Parents don’t want me at home anymore

Questioning Sexuality

No transportation for services

Afraid to ask for help

No money for basic needs

I am not smart

How will I ever get out?

those are cool glasses

I am not smart

© 2022

Adolescent Programs
Approved for distribution by Cameron Norton

www.dcyf.wa.gov
Trauma-Informed Practice

- Respond with empathy and nonjudgmental, strengths-based support
- Validate emotions
- Recognize: fight, flight, freeze, appease, dissociate
- Offer choice
- Reframe “bad behavior” as an intelligent function and result of trauma responses
- Attend to safety, dignity, agency, and belonging as fundamental human needs

Washington State Department of Children, Youth & Families

Original Date: October, 2022
Adolescent Programs
Approved for distribution by Cameron Norton
www.dcyf.wa.gov
Intake Question:
“Sometimes people trade sex for money or things they need to survive. Is that going on in your life? Or, is that going on around you?”

Follow-Up Prompt:
“I will not judge you or anything you tell me. I’m here if you ever want to talk or want support. We can focus on whatever would be most helpful for you.”

Ask specific questions during intake to screen for risk factors or involvement.
Track and support youth that are chronically running away and/or truant.
Ask about STIs, pregnancy, unexplained injuries, and/or hyper-sexualized behavior such as offer sex in exchange for money or goods.
Observe communication patterns in school, clinics, drop-in, or street outreach settings. Who talks to who? Who seems to be in charge socially?
# Language Frames the Issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formal/Legal Language</th>
<th>Informal Language</th>
<th>Outdated/Inappropriate Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)  
• Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor (CSAM)  
• Sexual exploitation of youth/young adults  
| • Working  
• Dating  
• Getting taken care of  
• Making money  
• In the life  
| • Teenage prostitute  
• Self-exploitation  

Original Date: October, 2022
Adolescent Programs
Approved for distribution by Cameron Norton
www.dcyf.wa.gov
What families can do if their child goes missing:

* Families can contact:
  - Washington State Patrol @Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit: mupu@wsp.wa.gov (800) 543-5678
  - Local Law Enforcement
  - FBI Tip Line: email INLANDNWHT@fbi.gov
  - National Center for Missing & Exploited Children: 24-Hour Hotline 1-800-843-5678
  - National Human Trafficking Hotline: 888-373-7888

* Where Native American/Alaska Native families can get extra support:
  - Washington State Patrol Tribal Liaisons:
    Patti Gosch patti.gosch@wsp.wa.gov (360) 280-0567 or Dawn Pullin dawn.pullin@wsp.wa.gov (360) 890-0150
  - Cedar Rising Coalition: 707-499-8276
  - MMIWP Family Healing Talking Circle: Annie Forsman Adams at annie.forsman-adams@atg.wa.gov
  - Tribal advocacy programs can be found: Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs- https://goia.wa.gov/
Places To Search

- Bus stations
- Youth centers
- Family members’ and friends’ homes
- Places youth frequently congregate
- Places you know where your child has hung out in the past
- School
- Homeless shelters
- Probation/parole
- Communication with family, friends and known associates
- Social media accounts
- Local homeless outreach programs/ free meal or food locations
Resources

- **National** Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC): https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/training/nhttac
- **National** Human Trafficking Hotline | 1-888-373-7888 | Text 233733 | Live Chat National Human Trafficking Hotline
- **National Office for Victims of Crime:** Human Trafficking | Help & Resources | Office for Victims of Crime (ojp.gov)
- **Statewide** Survivor Support Services: By Type — Washington Trafficking Help (watraffickinghelp.org)
- **Overview of Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) in Washington State Report:** GetPDF (wa.gov)
- **Washington** Trafficking Help: https://www.watraffickinghelp.org/
- **Washington** Trafficking Prevention: https://traffickingprevention.org/
- **Polaris | We Fight to End Human Trafficking** (polarisproject.org)
- **King County CSEC Contacts, Advocates & Support Groups:** https://www.kingcountycsec.org/advocates
- **Lutheran Community Services Northwest Sexual Assault 24-hour Crisis Line:** 509-624-7273
  https://lcsnw.org/office/spokane/
Native American/Alaska Native Specific Resources:

**StrongHearts Native Helpline**: 844-7NATIVE (762-8483)
**National Indigenous Women's Resource Center**: 406-477-3896
**Sovereign Bodies Institute**: (707) 335-6263
**NorthWest Justice Project**- Native American Unit: [https://nwjustice.org/NAU](https://nwjustice.org/NAU)
**Victim Services Tribal Program @ Rural Resources**: (877) 219-5542
**Innovations Human Trafficking Collaborative**: 833.201.0940
**The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations**- Residential, chemical dependency treatment center [https://healinglodge.org/](https://healinglodge.org/)
**The Native Project**- Behavioral Health, Prevention & Wellness, Medical, Dental: 509-325-5502
**Seattle Indian Health Board**- Advocacy program: 206-324-9360
# Ideas for Further Learning

## Access to Free Trainings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Life Story:</th>
<th><a href="https://thelifestory.org/">https://thelifestory.org/</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>King County Task Force Lunch &amp; Learn:</td>
<td><a href="https://www.kingcountycsec.org/lunch-learn">https://www.kingcountycsec.org/lunch-learn</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC):</td>
<td><a href="https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/training/nhttac">https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/training/nhttac</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Recommended Books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls Like Us</th>
<th>by Rachel Lloyd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fragments: A Post-Traumatic Paradigm</td>
<td>by K.D. Roche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runaway Girl: Escaping Life on the Streets</td>
<td>by Carissa Phelps w/ Larkin Warren</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank You!

Cameron Norton  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers  
Missing and Exploited Youth Program Manager  
Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
509-991-0748 / Fax: 509-363-4601  
Cameron.Norton@dcyf.wa.gov

Judy Johnston  
Pronouns: She/They  
Missing and Exploited Youth Liaison- West  
Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
360-918-4285  
Judith.Johnston@dcyf.wa.gov

Mabel Elsom  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers  
Missing and Exploited Youth Liaison- East  
Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
509-503-8643  
Mabel.Elsom@dcyf.wa.gov

If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations (1-800-723-4831 | 360-902-8060, ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov)

Original Date: October, 2022  
Adolescent Programs  
Approved for distribution by Cameron Norton  
www.dcyf.wa.gov