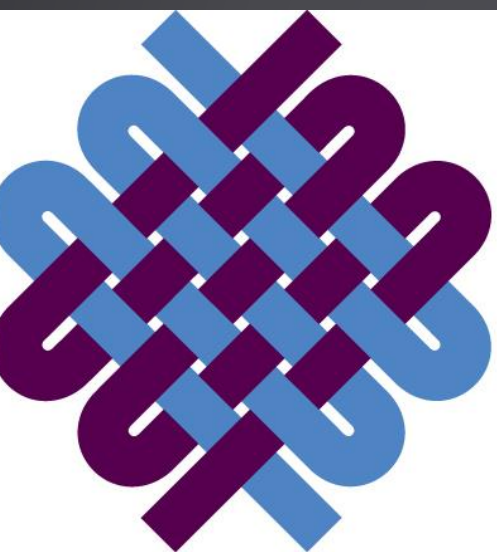


Responding to CSEC: Summer Lunch Series



center for
CHILDREN & YOUTH
JUSTICE | *Changing the arc of a young person's future*



Building a Toolkit for CSEC Task Forces in Washington State

Radu Smintina, Camille Hakansson, Maria Mathew, & Brittany Dymond



Research Methods



Project Overview

- Task: Create a toolkit of best practices that current and future task forces could utilize to better systemically support CSEC/Y in their local regions
- Research methods: Literature Review, survey and interviews with key informants

A task force consists “of individuals who respond to, serve, or have oversight for or impact on prostituted children. The primary responsibility of the Task Force is to foster a coordinated community response to CSEC”

- CCYJ Model Protocol



Vision for Toolkit Creation

- Create series of toolkits that task forces can ‘pick up or pull out.’
- 9 mini-toolkits in total.
- Provide flexible advice rather than prescriptive directions.

1. What is a task force?
2. Starting a task force - Phase 1
3. Sustaining a task force - Phase 2
4. Structure of a task force
5. Task force coordinator
6. Task force chair
7. Training
8. Data collection
9. Statewide Coordinating Committee (SCC)



Literature Review



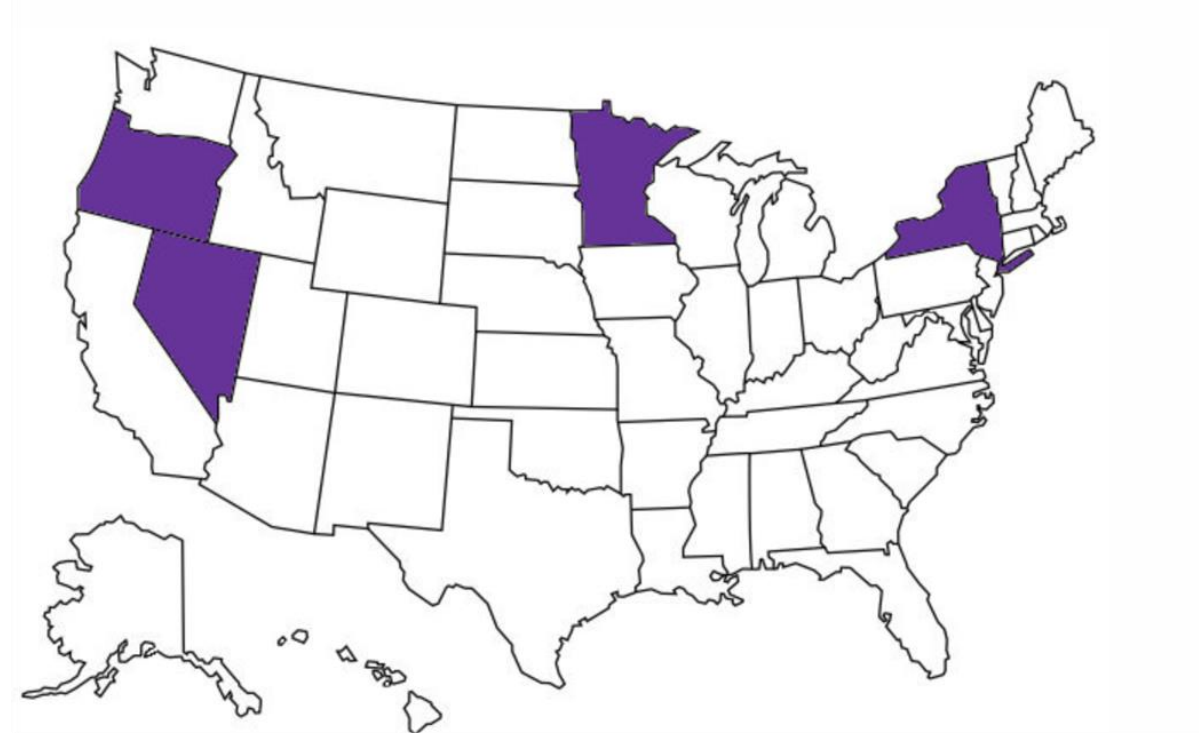
Methods and Similarities

Methods:

- Researched task force systems in 4 other states
- Interviewed one individual from Oregon state

Similarities:

- Recognizes the importance of diversity on a task force
- Trauma-informed and victim-centered
- Recognizes the importance of CSEC trainings





Differences in Task Force Models

Funding

- MN - Distributes 15 million every other year to Safe Harbor activities (which includes task force activities)
- OR - Full time task force coordinators for each region are funded through grants
- NY - Provides funding to start up task forces

Different words for “task force”

- Many used phrases other than task force
- No universal language



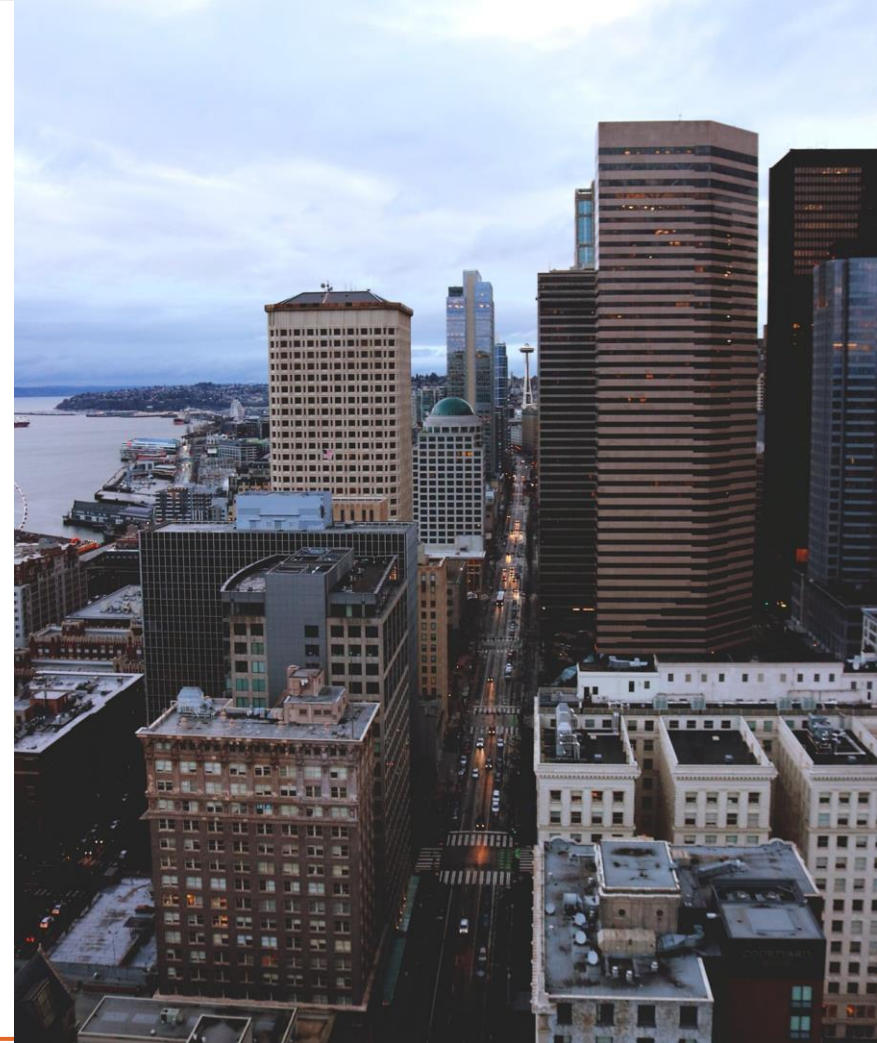
Points of Interest

- OR - Employ a full-time coordinator to go between task forces and the state agencies, known as the Trafficking Intervention Coordinator (TIC)
- OR - TIC organizes monthly calls with task force coordinators
- OR - Certification required to become a task force
- NY - Creates county asset map to understand where there are gaps in services



Literature Review Limitations

- Was not able to interview other states about their task force processes (except Oregon state)
- Not clear if what is presented online is representative of what is occurring in task forces
- Only researched 4 other states

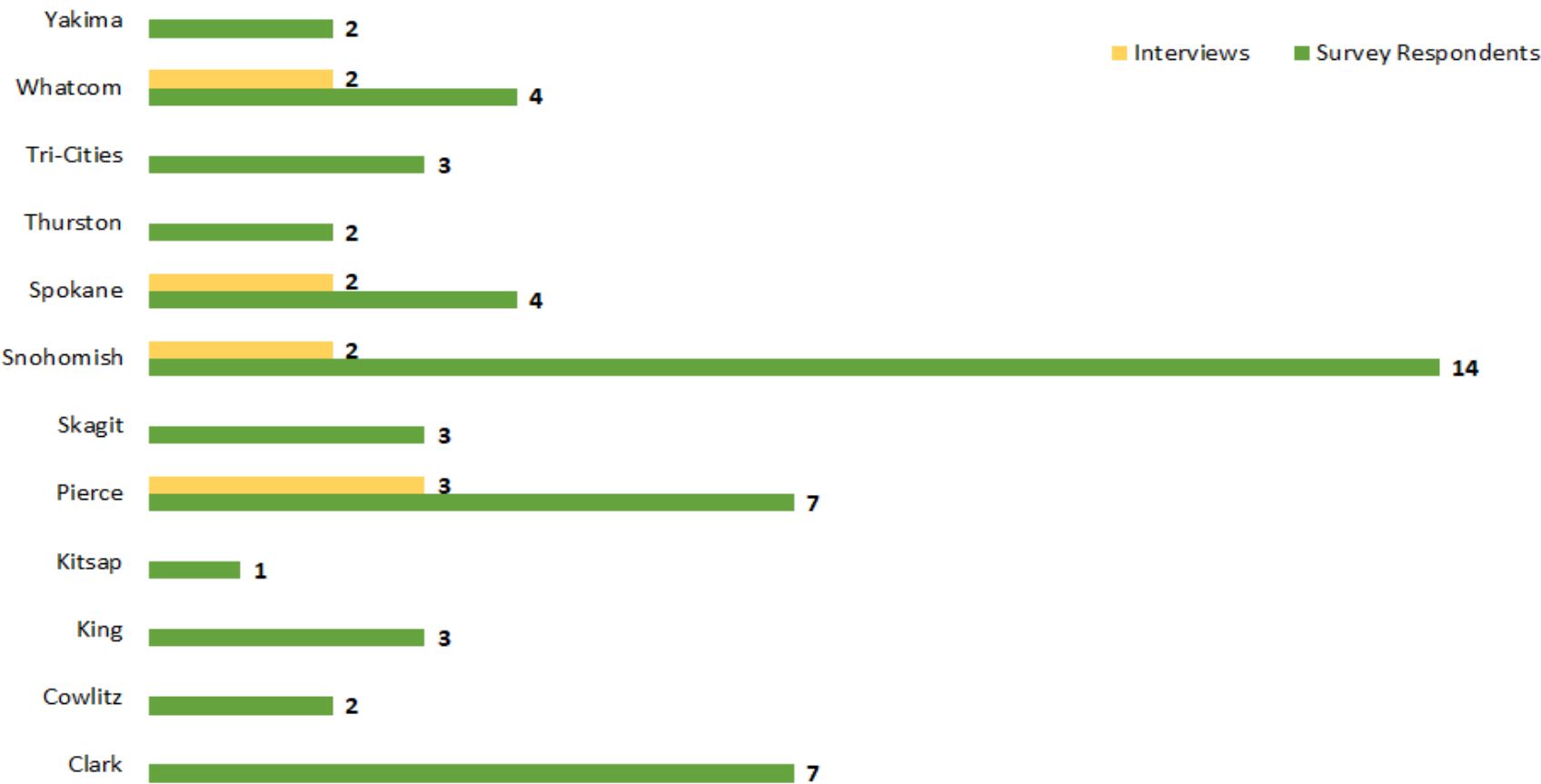




Survey & Interview



Sample Participation: 52 survey responses; 12 interviews





Key Findings

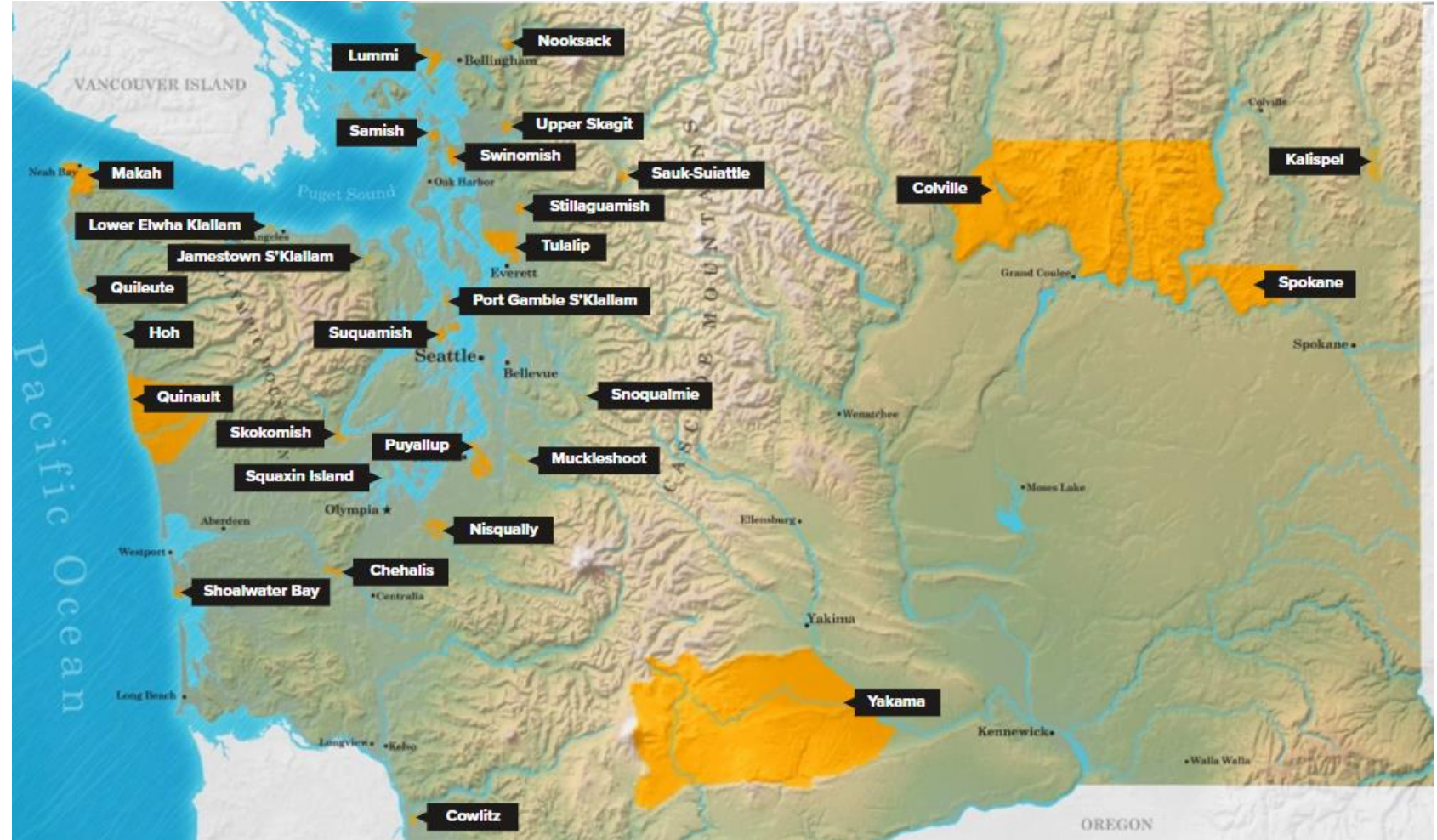
- Task forces:
 - Create a networking platform for CSEC/Y interfacing organizations
 - Educate members and the community to serve CSEC/Y through a victim-centered & trauma-informed lens
- Low awareness of State Coordinating Committee (SCC) functions
- Data collection can improve - largely anecdotal
- More member diversity needed (75% white)



Tribal members have little influence on TF direction

Task Force Regions:

- Yakima
- Whatcom
- Tri-Cities
- Thurston
- Spokane
- Snohomish
- Skagit
- Pierce
- King
- Cowlitz
- Clark



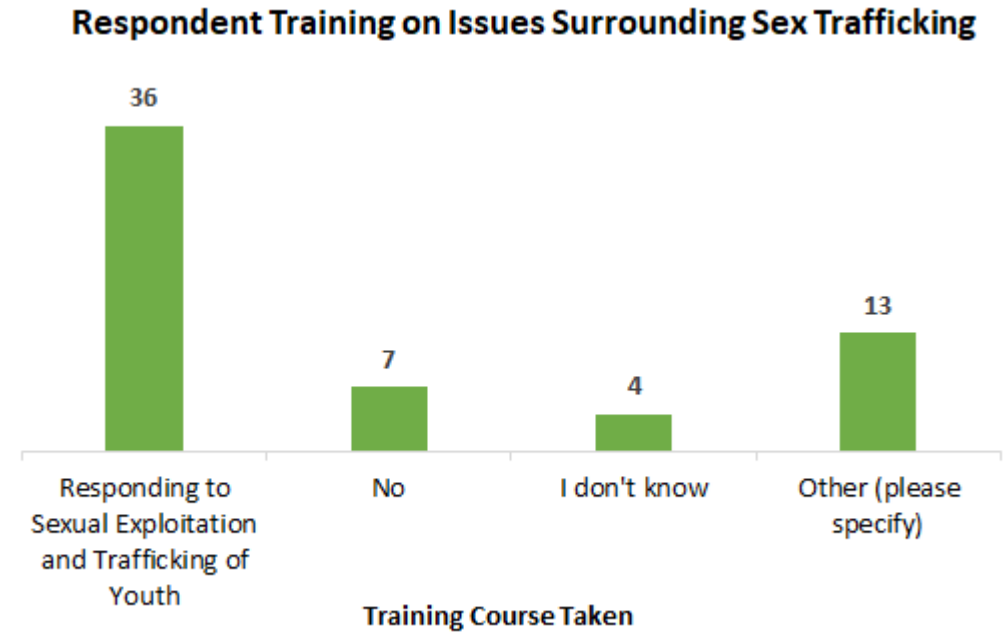


Survey



Unique Survey Findings

- Over 70% have received *Responding to Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Youth* training
- Most feel their employer supports their task force participation





Survey Limitations

- Response rate + unclear membership definitions
 - Disproportionate response from Snohomish
 - Aggregate vs. task force-level
- Optional questions
- Missed opportunity
 - Participant gender identities

task_force_name2	task_force_size
Skagit	Unsure
Skagit	100
Skagit	15-20
Snohomish	About 20
Snohomish	25ish
Snohomish	20
Snohomish	4
Snohomish	
Snohomish	21
Snohomish	30
Snohomish	At least 20
Snohomish	I'm not sure
Snohomish	I don't know
Snohomish	20
Snohomish	30 ish
Snohomish	about 25
Snohomish	35
Spokane	30
Spokane	Are you referring to community or LE TF?
Spokane	40?
Spokane	30+?



Interviews



Unique Interview Findings

- No clear process exists for starting a task force
- Low barriers to membership
- Task force coordinator is the glue that holds the members together
- Many participants referred King County as the ideal task force

“ We looked at King County for a lot of those answers. Their task force have been very successful over the last six years....a lot in part due to having a full time coordinator...so we need one of those”

- A Task Force Coordinator



Strengths of Task Forces

- Strengthened partnerships among CSEC/Y interfacing organizations

“We have built incredible partnerships with different stakeholders....when need arises...they might have the right connections ”

- A Task Force Coordinator



Weaknesses of Task Forces

- Task force coordinators are overwhelmed
- No clarity in accessing funding for task force initiatives
- Low awareness of community advocates among task force members

“We know when someone is paid and has the time and that's their job, it's going to be more successful”.

- A Task Force Member

“I don't have funds to pour into the task force... do you make an ask to task force members or the community?”

- A Task Force Coordinator



Interview Limitations



- Interviewees aren't representative of all the 12 task forces
- Pool of interviewees are limited to social services, medical services, & judicial system
- Many task forces focus on human trafficking as a whole



Recommendations



Fund Task Force Coordinators



Task force coordinator should be a paid, dedicated position, whether full-time or part-time.

Some Coordinator duties:

- Facilitating connections between organizations
- Promoting CSEC/Y work
- Organizing meetings, trainings, and events
- Establishing & aligning task force with goals
- Coordinating speakers
- Supporting the Chair



More Uniform Data Collection

Data points some collect:

- Number of trainings conducted
- Number of attendees at task force meetings
- Length of time organizations have been represented on the task force
- Criminalization of CSEC/Y and buyers by law enforcement

Data points only King County collects:

- Tracking interconnectedness of CSEC/Y services
 - a. Do CSEC/Y facing orgs know about each other?
 - b. Do they communicate?
 - c. Do they refer CSEC/Y to each other?



Discussion of Community Advocates

“I'd be interested in learning more about that – frankly, I didn't even know confidential advocacy was an option!”

- A Task Force

Member

What is a community advocate?

- A dependable bridge back to services
- Does not release information without CSEC/Y consent
- Surrounded by mandatory reporters
- Not the first point of contact with CSEC/Y
- Training Required; best advocacy comes from community organizations



Toolkits



Toolkit Sections

1. What is a task force?
2. Starting a task force - Phase 1
3. Sustaining a task force - Phase 2
4. Structure of a task force
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| What is a CSEC task force?

A task force “consists of individuals who respond to, serve, or impact on commercially sexually children or youth. The primary responsibility of the Task Force is to foster a coordinated community response to CSEC”.¹

What does CSEC/Y stand for?

CSEC stands for commercially sexually exploited children. Commercially sexually exploited children refers to anyone aged 17 and under who has taken part in a sexual act in exchange for a material item such as money or food, willingly or unwillingly. The acronym “CSEC/Y” is used to refer to commercially sexually exploited children and youth. Youth in this toolkit refers to those aged 24 and under.

What does a CSEC task force do?

- A task force brings together individuals from all sectors that interface with CSEC/Y and provides the opportunity for networking between organizations.
- Identify gaps in services for CSEC/Y and find ways to fill these gaps.
- Coordinate or promote CSEC training in their community and ensure that their task force region has a trainer capable of running a CSEC training.
- CSEC related tasks such as educating the community on CSEC/Y or work to reduce demand for sex from minors in their community.
- Determine if current CSEC-related laws are being implemented and ensure that procedures are in place to meet the requirements of new policies and laws.



What is a Task Force?

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The primary responsibility of the Task Force is to foster a coordinated community response to CSEC”.

- *Center for Children & Youth Justice. (2016). REVISED: Washington State model protocol for commercially sexually exploited children*

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Starting and Sustaining a Task Force

Phase 1: Starting a task force

- Identify a coordinator
- Recruit members
- Establish a mission
- Ensure a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach

Phase 2: Sustaining a task force

- Build out the task force structure:
 - Create subcommittees
 - Intentionally recruit voices missing from the task force
 - Create MOUs with member organizations
- Task for activities
 - Educate service providers on trauma informed and victim center response to CSEC/Y
 - Create events to educate the community on CSEC/Y



Structure of Task Force

- Leadership:
 - Task force Coordinator
 - Task force Chair (often a Judge)
- Subcommittees
 - Demand reduction
 - Education
 - Create one specific to your community's needs
- Community Advocates
- Diversity of representation on a task forces

Members should include:

- Local law enforcement.
- Community advocates.
- Child Protective Services (CPS).
- Youth service providers (social services, housing, homeless youth case workers, etc.).
- School personnel.
- Public health personnel.
- Prosecutors.
- Defense attorneys.
- Healthcare providers (medical, community-based mental health).
- Federal law enforcement.
- Human trafficking survivors.
- Tribal communities.
- LGBTQ+ representatives.



Task Force Coordinator

- Scheduling task force meetings.
- Creating meeting agendas & running meetings.
- Working with the task force chair to align task force priorities and activities.
- Mission and vision statement creation.
- Goal setting and communication of goals.
- Alignment of goals with task force activities.
- Creating and managing formal agreements between the task force and its member agencies/groups.
- Establishing buy-in from community agencies, organizations, members, and officials.
- Vetting new task force members.
- Maintaining task force member listserv.
- Setting up events.
- Hosting and/or providing training.

- Central to the successful functioning of a task force
- Should be funded
 - OVCA grant (State)
 - VOCA grant (Federal)



Task Force Chair

- Voluntary position alongside Coordinator to:
 - Onboard new members
 - Decide new task force initiatives
 - Advocate for policy changes
- Judges make strong Chair candidates
- Chair represents task forces at SCC meetings





Training

- All task force members should receive some basic training regarding working with/familiarizing themselves with CSEC/Y.
- Additional training should be provided to:
 - Local Law Enforcement
 - Community Advocates
 - CPS
 - Service Providers
 - Prosecutors and Defense Attorneys

Stakeholder training is an essential component of creating a victim-centered and trauma-informed.

Data Collection

- Suggested data measures:
 - Attendance
 - Trainings
 - Interconnectedness of CSEC/Y services
 - Criminalization (of CSEC/Y and buyers)
- MOUs may help facilitate data collection





Statewide Coordinating Committee (SCC)

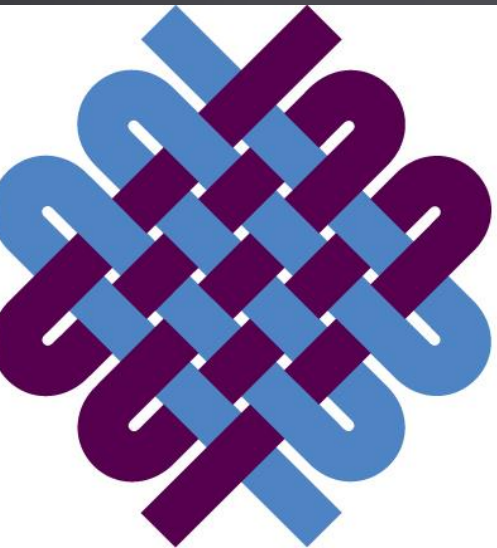
- Task Forces interact with SCC by:
 - submitting annual reports
 - attending annual meeting
 - reaching out as needed
- How task forces can contact SCC



Commercially Sexually
Exploited Children Statewide
Coordinating Committee

Thank you!

Questions?



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