



Multnomah County: Community Response to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

Purpose: Collaborate as community partners to create a coordinated community response to the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). We will create an action plan that will help us meet or exceed the goals of our CSEC three-year grant awarded by The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

By working together we have achieved these key actions,

1. Enhanced services for CSEC survivors:

- ❖ In August 2011 the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners allocated \$258,000 in one-time funds to create a new residential option for survivors of CSEC. In December 2011 Janus Youth programs opened Oregon's first CSEC residential program. In June 2012, The Multnomah County Board of County Commissioners awarded \$513,000 to continue funding for the collaboration specialist, two full-time advocates and a portion of the shelter's operating costs. Additionally, the board allocated \$154,601 in funds were secured for an in-jail human trafficking Sergeant position & \$37,736 for support of the Human Trafficking Taskforce led by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Department.
- ❖ The Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC) provides advocacy services to survivors of CSEC. Funds from the City of Portland have enabled SARC to expand its CSEC response unit to four advocates and in 2011 provided support to 267 survivors of CSEC.
- ❖ The State of Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare division has developed a CSEC special unit. Using existing funds, 4.5 staff are dedicated to work with CSEC survivors. This team serves 60-70 CSEC survivors and is co-located with the Multnomah County Child Abuse team.
- ❖ Janus Youth Programs (JYP) hired a case manager to work with CSEC survivors. The Casemanager coordinate services with targeted service providers and law enforcement officers. JYP dedicated two- four shelter beds at short term shelter and created seven new long term residential beds specifically for survivors of CSEC.
- ❖ Lifeworks NW utilizes Medicaid funding to provide treatment to survivors of CSEC. This treatment is trauma informed and addresses mental health, substance abuse and life skills. Lifeworks has developed a CSEC special unit using existing funds. Five full-time staff are dedicated to working with CSEC survivors.
- ❖ Youth Villages provides mental health treatment to survivors of CSEC in a secure residential program. Treatment is trauma focused & emphasizes life skills development. Services are provided in an 8 bed locked secure unit as well as staff secure units.



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2. Increased knowledge of CSEC:

- A multidiscipline team presented sessions at the National Prostitution Conference (Sept. 2011), Institute of Medicine national meeting (May 2012) NW CAT (Jan. 2012) and H.E.A.T. Watch national trafficking conference (June 2012) and The United Church of Christ National Youth Event (July 2012). Representatives from LifeWorks NW, New Options for Women, SARC, Portland Police and Multnomah County: Commissioner McKeel, Community Justice and the District Attorney's office participated in these events.
- Based on comprehensive training received from GEMS a training team of 40+ community partners have provided 127 sessions of training to a wide variety of professional and community groups. The total number of people trained since June 2010 exceeds 9500.
- SARC in partnership with Portland Police Bureau (PPB) developed roll call training that provides patrol officers with information to recognize and respond to victims of CSEC.
- 20 CSEC trainers developed curriculum using the GEMS material and trained 250 girls ages 11-18 in a school setting.
- GirlStrength is a self-defense program offered through the PPB for girls 10-14 years of age. The focus is on empowering girls and demystifying fear while also teaching verbal assertiveness and physical self-defense skills. This eight week program is available to school in the Portland area and has trained approximately 1,200 girl. GirlStrength staff and volunteers have received training on CSEC and have added this information to their curriculum.
- With funding through the Office for Victims of Crime, GEMS developed the Survivor Informed Training and Technical Assistance Project (SITTAP). 40+ community partners received this training.
- The Exile Poster Project confronts injustices in Portland through the powerful medium of the poster and is designed to incite local communities into critical, creative action. The 2011 show focused on CSEC and proceeds went to the Victim's Assistance Fund at SARC.





3. Improved the system response to CSEC:

- Multnomah County is nationally recognized for designing & implementing a unique coordinated interagency/intersystem Continuum of Care for providing services to child victims of sex trafficking. This system was developed in 2010-11 through a community planning process that was initiated by the CSEC Steering Committee. Janus Youth Programs, a nonprofit organization with extensive history of working on collaborative projects serving at-risk and homeless youth in Multnomah County, led the planning process. The system is designed to be flexible & allow youth to move through the continuum as needed. Recognizing the complex service needs of these youth, the planning committee recommended the creation of an integrated, collaborative system of care specifically designed for CSEC victims with the capacity to serve 125 youth each year. Elements of the plan include: system coordination, joint data collection and evaluation, targeted outreach, “no wrong door” referral process, guaranteed 24-hour access to safety off the street through a 24-hour “HUB”, variety of housing options available for as long as necessary, and continuum of services based on the five pillars of the young person’s Life Plan: home, spirituality, health and well-being, education and work, family and community.
- Janus Youth Programs, Multnomah County Juvenile Justice and the Portland Police Bureau developed a two-side, laminated card for police to reference when they suspect CSEC on a case.
- Multnomah County Senior District Attorney & County Commissioner Diane McKeel convened a workgroup to review & update local child abuse protocols to include responding to CSEC survivors.
- Passed eight key pieces of legislation. Those bills increase the penalties for people who procure or buy sex from children and eliminate loopholes to effective prosecution.
- Provided consultation and facilitation to a statewide effort to bring partners in law enforcement, criminal justice and state licensing programs together who do not traditionally work together to combat human trafficking.

4. Improving Juvenile Justice Response to CSEC:

- Improved access for community partners to visit youth in detention & Residential Alcohol & Drug (RAD) – clarified procedures & assign ID badges to staff at LWNW and SARC.
- Designated a meeting space for community partners that offers improved confidentiality for interviews with CSEC victims.
- Review of policies related to access to medical services for youth in JSD custody.
- List of 616 youth supervised by JSD/OYA revealed 61 (14 males 47 females) were identified as CSEC. 25 youth on this combined list are identified as crossover youth.
- Training planned for all DCJ staff. Classroom session topics include: Basic Overview (3 hrs), Impacts of Porn (2 hrs), Identifying & Investigating Exploiters (2 hrs) and six separate one-hour e-learning modules
- Addressing recruiting in RAD & Detention & overall concerns for youth placed in RAD.
- Improved medical services for youth in detention, including sexual assault exams & treatment.
- CSEC point person to be assigned 8-1-12.



5. Built strong collaborations:

- 2011 - The National Association of Counties (NACo) recognized Multnomah County CSEC Steering Committee for implementing innovative county government programs to better serve area residents.
- Convened a monthly teleconference for communities working to combat CSEC. Participants: Las Vegas - NV, Orange County – CA, Alameda County – CA, and Miami, FL.
- Workgroups meet monthly to address specific areas of the system response to CSEC. These workgroups include; legislation, victim services implementation, arrest/investigation/prosecution, medical & mental health systems and ending the demand. Work groups are led by a community partner & work to address difficult issues and developing creative solutions.
- Just. Men. Oregon. was born out of a vision nurtured by the CSEC Committee to encourage men to rise up in defense of kids and in defiance of a culture that would seek to exploit them. For more info go to : <http://justmenoregon.com/>
- Five Portland Rotary Clubs provided a two-week awareness/outreach campaign in June 2012. Activities included; delivering soap with the NHTRC hotline number to local hotels, hosting a fundraisers in partnership with two local restaurants, distributing banners and posters to local business & community locations, collecting and donating clothing & hygiene supplies and sponsoring a CSEC awareness walk.

TO LEARN MORE PLEASE CONTACT:

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IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS OR WANTS SUPPORT PLEASE CONTACT:

National Human Trafficking Resource Center
at 1-888-3737-888 for help 24 hours a day
Help is available in six languages.