

Report on Sex Trafficking in Santa Barbara County

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District Attorney Joyce Dudley

Today

Provide an update on

- Scope of sex trafficking
- Needs of survivors and
- Provision of County Services

Joint presentation

- District Attorney - Joyce Dudley & Megan Rheinschild
- Child Welfare Services/Probation - Devin Drake
- Behavioral Wellness - Lisa Conn

What is Sex Trafficking?

- Occurs when someone uses force, fraud or coercion to induce a commercial sex act or causes a minor to commit a commercial sex act in exchange for money, drugs, food, shelter or clothes
- Central coast is major hub and natural transit corridor

DA Human Trafficking Task Force

- Initiated in August 2013 in response to local awareness and regional trends
- Includes representatives from 37 agencies
- Forum for training, networking, development of strategies to identify and investigate cases, & coordinate services

Multiple opportunities for entry into County system

- **Sheriff:** Identification during investigation
- **Probation:** Survivor/Victim identified during Juvenile Hall mental & physical health exam
- **BW:** Survivor/Victim identified through Clinics & Access
- **CWS:** Allegations of child abuse & neglect
- **District Attorney:** Victim Witness Program

Service challenges



One dimensional support system not effective

Fear of, or loyalty, to exploiter

Not see themselves as victims

Complex trauma

Substance abuse/addiction

Gang affiliation

Coached by pimp/exploiter

Task Force Commissioned Needs Assessment 2012-2014

Focus on Child Sex Trafficking

- ✓ Methodology: extensive interviews, *review of data, prevalence of on-line escort services*
- ✓ Provided info about scope, needs of survivors, gaps in services

Needs Assessment Key Findings

Between 2012-2014

Local prevalence of child victims:

45 confirmed

80 suspected

461 extremely vulnerable

Demand:

675 online escort ads in 2 weeks

Needs Assessment Key Findings Continued...

Risk factors:

Abuse/neglect

Foster care

Homelessness

Juvenile justice
system

Identification in system:

Mental health 44%

Law enforcement
42%

Social Services 13%

New level of Inter-departmental coordination

1. **Specialty “CSEC Court”**
which focuses on girls
within the Juvenile Justice
system
2. **CWS lead Inter-agency
Protocol Task Force, per SB
855**

*Collaborative staffing between
multiple agencies to determine
treatment: Public Defender,
Probation, Victim Witness, RISE,
AOD, Court, CWS*

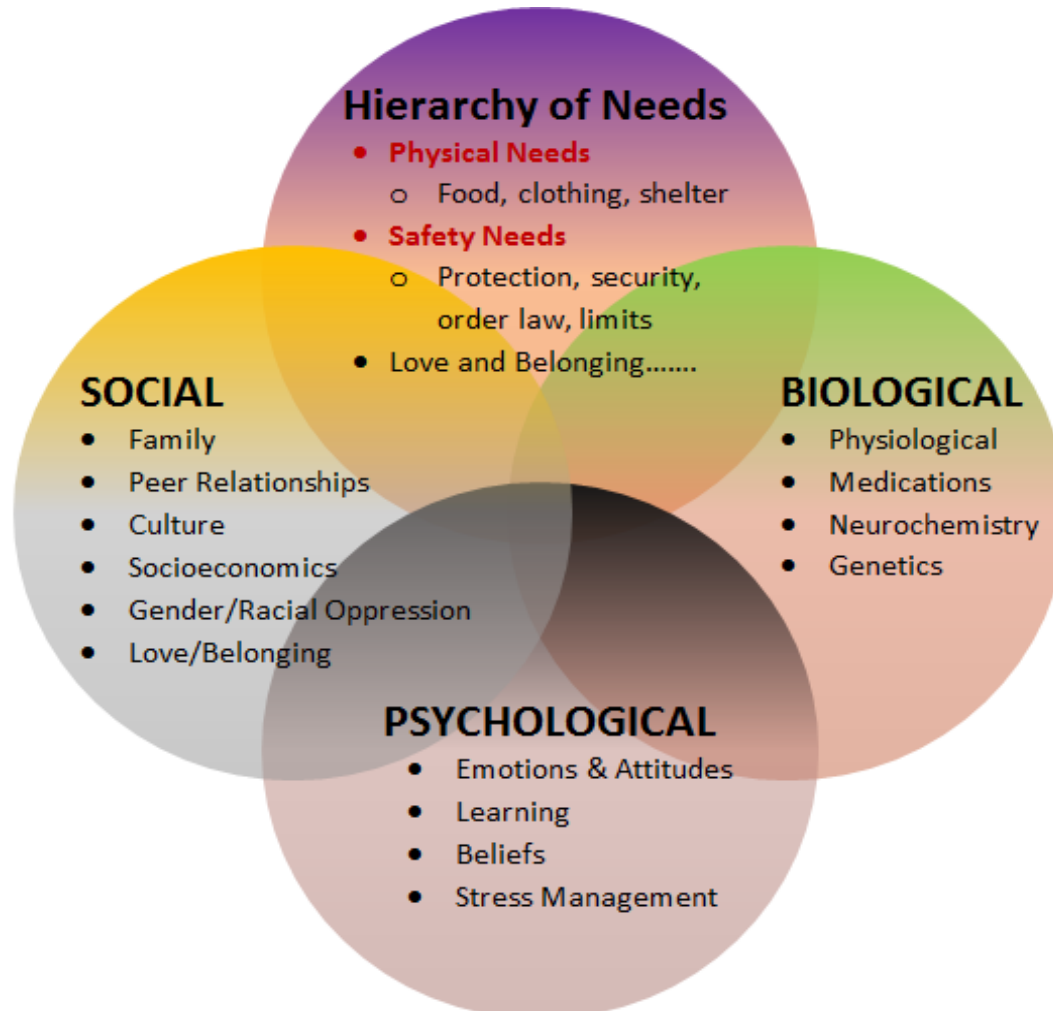


Needs Assessment Recommendations	Ongoing Implementation	Ongoing Challenges
<p>Need for protocols, screening tools & data management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWS lead development of interagency protocol (SB 855) • CSEC Specialty Court • Identification tool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal privacy barriers • No central data system • Training & implementation
<p>Proactive investigations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DA & SO applied for Federal grant funding to fund task force development, including dedicated investigator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of resources • Training • Philosophical shift from criminalization to services • Public education/awareness
<p>Trauma-informed, survivor-centered care, including drug & alcohol abuse services for children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral Wellness “RISE” program: bio-psycho-social approach in home like setting, not traditional therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable funding (RISE grant limited to 3 years)
<p>Need for emergency, transitional and permanent housing <i>*note differences in placement options for adults vs. children</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWS working with the State and other entities to provide appropriate placement options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently no CSEC specific options for this specific population in SBC, especially if under 18 years old

Behavioral Wellness New Program

“RISE”

Resiliency Interventions for Sexual Exploitation



Youth in Custody

over 2 year period

- 72 Girls
- 6 Boys

In Summary: What SBC is Doing

Multi-Agency Collaborations

Identification Tools (1st Responder & West Coast)

Human Trafficking Advocate Program/Victim Witness

24/7 Rapid Responders/Trauma Informed

Human Trafficking Task Force

CSEC Court

Linkages to CSEC Specific Interventions

Female Specific Workgroup

In-Custody Girls' Program

Trauma-Informed & CSEC Trainings

Behavioral Wellness "RISE Program"

Faith Based Community Collaboration

Hotel Outreach/Education

Recommended Actions

- 1) Receive and file a report on sex trafficking in Santa Barbara County;
- 2) Provide additional direction as appropriate; and
- 3) Determine that these actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3), finding that the execution of these actions are covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment, and where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment, the activities are not subject to CEQA.