

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Herein referred to as "CWS"

AND

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Herein referred to as "Probation"

AND

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ALCOHOL, DRUG, AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Herein referred to as "ADMHS"

AND

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

Herein referred to as "Juvenile Court"

AND

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Herein referred to as "PHD"

AND

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Herein referred to as "DA"

AND

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SHERIFF

Herein referred to as "Sheriff"

AND

SANTA BARBARA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Herein referred to as "SBPD"

AND

LOMPOC POLICE DEPARTMENT

Herein referred to as "LPD"

AND

SANTA MARIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Herein referred to as "SMPD"

AND

SANTA BARBARA RAPE CRISIS CENTER

Herein referred to as "SBRCC"

AND

NORTH COUNTY RAPE CRISIS AND CHILD PROTECTION CENTER

Herein referred to as "NCRCCPC"

AND

NOAH'S ANCHORAGE YOUTH SHELTER

Herein referred to as "Noah's Anchorage"

FOR

Santa Barbara County Commercially Sexually Exploited children (CSEC) Program

Interagency Protocol

WHEREAS, an individual who is commercially sexually exploited child (CSEC) or sexually trafficked, as described in Section 236.1 of the California Penal Code, or who receives food or shelter in exchange for, or who is paid to perform, sexual acts described in Section 236.1 or 11165.1 of the California Penal Code, and whose parent or guardian failed to, or was unable to protect the child, is a commercially sexually exploited child and may be served through the Santa Barbara County child welfare system pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 300(b)(2); and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County Child Welfare Services elected to participate in the CSEC Program as described in Section 16524.7 of California Welfare and Institutions Code in order to more effectively serve CSEC by utilizing a multidisciplinary approach for case management, service planning, and the provision of services, and

WHEREAS, the parties to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), have developed the following MOU to guide Santa Barbara County's approach to serving CSEC; and

WHEREAS, the MOU reflects the commitment of Santa Barbara County and the parties to the following guiding principles:

A. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

1. Must be understood as child abuse and reported as such, and
2. Should not be criminalized.

B. Responses to CSEC should be:

1. Victim-centered,
2. Trauma-informed,
3. Strengths-based,
4. Developmentally appropriate,
5. Culturally, linguistically, and LGBTQ competent and affirming,
6. Committed to active efforts that engage CSEC early and often,
7. Multidisciplinary, individualized, flexible, and timely, and
8. Data and outcome driven.

C. Agency Policies & Procedures should:

1. Ensure and track cross-system collaboration at the system and individual case level,
2. Incorporate mechanisms to identify and assess CSEC at key decision points,
3. Address the unique physical and emotional safety considerations of CSEC, and
4. Address unique physical and emotional safety considerations, including vicarious trauma of staff, caregivers, and other relevant support persons.

WHEREAS, the parties agree to form a CSEC Steering Committee to provide ongoing oversight and support to ensure the county agencies and partners effectively collaborate to better identify and serve

victims of commercial sexual exploitation and children at risk of becoming exploited through the MOU; and

WHEREAS, the parties agree to form a multidisciplinary team (MDT), pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16524.7(d)(2) for CSEC, to build on a youth's strengths and respond to his/her needs in a coordinated manner; and

WHEREAS, California Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 18960-18964 states a county may establish a child abuse multidisciplinary personnel team (MDT) within the county to allow provider agencies to share confidential information in order for provider agencies to investigate reports of suspected child abuse or neglect pursuant to California Penal Code Section 11160, 11166, or 11166.05, or for the purposes of child welfare agencies making a detention determination; and

WHEREAS, the parties agree that the information they receive from other parties concerning a child that is obtained during the identification and assessment process or during a multidisciplinary team meeting shall be used solely for prevention, identification, and treatment purposes and shall otherwise be confidential and retained in the files of the entity performing the screening or assessment. Such information shall not be subject to subpoena or other court process for use in any other proceeding or for any other purpose pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18961.7(c); and

WHEREAS, the parties, as defined by law, must comply with mandatory reporting guidelines as defined by California Penal Code Sections 11164 – 11174.3 and report known or suspected child abuse and neglect, which includes sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, this MOU defines the mutually agreed upon responsibilities of each of the parties under the CSEC Program pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16524.7. This MOU is not intended to establish legal duties or otherwise alter the respective responsibilities of the parties; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties of this MOU set forth the following as the terms and conditions of their understanding:

I. Steering Committee

A. **Purpose.** In order to ensure Santa Barbara County effectively implements the CSEC Program, the parties agree to form a Steering Committee. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to provide oversight and leadership and to ensure that the Interagency Protocol is operating effectively. The Steering Committee is responsible for:

- a) Developing the Interagency CSEC MOU (hereinafter MOU),
- b) Implementing the MOU,
- c) Overseeing implementation of the MOU,
- d) Collecting and analyzing aggregate data related to the CSEC population,
- e) Revising the MOU as needed on an ongoing bases,
- f) Assessing the sufficiency of CSEC-specific resources in the county,
- g) Identifying necessary training and ensuring that it is completed, and
- h) Providing an annual report to the State in compliance with State and Federal requirements.

B. Steering Committee Membership & Responsibilities: The following parties agree to participate in the Steering Committee and fulfill the responsibilities defined in the MOU:

- a) Child Welfare Services
- b) Probation Department
- c) Public Health Department
- d) Juvenile Court
- e) Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services
- f) District Attorney/Victim Witness
- g) Community Partners
- h) Rape Crisis Centers
- e) Appoint director or designee empowered to make decisions on behalf of the party to participate,
- f) Attend regularly scheduled meetings and participate collaboratively in committee,
- i) Report on successes, barriers to providing services, and areas for improvement, including recommendations for adapting the MOU and training needs/gaps, and
- j) Provide aggregate data on identified CSEC including the numbers identified and the services accessed by those youth

D. Child Welfare Services Steering Committee Responsibilities: Child Welfare Services will be responsible for.

- a) Convening and serving as lead agency of steering committee,
- b) Providing staff to coordinate the steering committee, and
- c) Gathering aggregate data from the MDTs to present and analyze with Steering Committee.

II. Confidentiality

1. The CSEC Task Force and all identified members agree to maintain confidentiality of all records pursuant to WIC Section 827 and 10850-10853, The CDSS MPP, Division 19-000, and all other provisions of law and regulations promulgated hereunder relating to privacy and confidentiality, as each may now exist or be hereafter amended.
2. The CSEC Task Force and all identified members agree to maintain the confidentiality of all records with respect to Juvenile Court matters, in accordance with WIC Section 827, all applicable statutes, case law, and in accordance to Santa Barbara County Juvenile Court Policy regarding confidentiality, as it now exist or may hereafter be amended.
3. No access, disclosure or release of information regarding a youth who is the subject of Juvenile Court proceedings shall be permitted except as authorized. If authorization is in doubt, no such information shall be released without the written approval of a Judge of the Juvenile Court.
4. The CSEC Task Force and all identified members agree to obtain prior written approval of the Juvenile Court before allowing any youth under the age of eighteen (18) years old

and to make their best efforts to obtain prior written approval for youth over the age of eighteen (18) years old to be interviewed, photographed or recorded by any publication or organization or to appear on any radio, television or internet broadcast or make any other public appearance. Such approval shall be requested through the child's social worker.

5. The CSEC Task Force and all identified members agree that CSEC information and statements obtained via the identification, assessment and MDT processes will be maintained, disclosed and used only as stated within this MOU and in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations.
6. The CSEC Task Force and all identified members agree to inform every member of the youth's MDT's who receives information or records on children and families served under this MOU shall be under the same privacy and confidentiality obligations and subject to the same confidentiality penalties as the person disclosing or providing the information or records. Further, all MDT members shall be required to complete a CSEC Confidentiality Agreement form.
7. The CSEC Task Force and all identified members agree to comply with mandatory reporting guidelines as defined by CPC Sections 11164-11174.3 and report known or suspected child abuse and neglect, which includes sexual exploitation. Said reporting requirements shall be extended to non-required parties; however, nothing in this MOU shall be intended or have the effect of increasing or expanding the scope of mandatory reporting requirements as set forth in CPC Sections 11164-11174.3 with respect to judicial officers.
8. Youth provided services under this MOU shall be informed that all information obtained is confidential, with the following exceptions: Incidences of abuse or neglect that are reportable to the Child Abuse Registry; and information will be shared with members of the CSEC Task Force in order to develop an appropriate plan for services, including medical and psychological care; and information shared among the CSEC Task Force and all identified members during assessment may be shared with other agencies/programs to ensure the youth's safety and the safety of others and/or to coordinate care; and information may be shared with the Juvenile Court in order to better assess the youth's safety and intervention needs; and the CSEC Task Force and all identified members will use its screening to complete psychosocial assessments and identify and report to DSS/Law Enforcement any instance of sexual exploitation in accordance with mandated reporting laws; and the CSEC Task Force and all identified members will maintain records of its screening results as well as any information collected and statements made during the screening including information regarding sexual exploitation.

III. Identification of Risk Factors:

In order to understand the scope and nature of the problem in Santa Barbara County and provide appropriate services, professionals will screen youth and assess their related needs on an ongoing basis. The following risk factors have been identified as the most prevalent for youth in Santa Barbara County:

- Child Welfare history
- Probation history
- Cutting / Self-Harm
- Developmental delays
- Drug or substance use
- Entertainment and Modeling Profession (interest or participation)
- Gang affiliation
- High number of moves in placement
- History of Criminal Record/ Arrest History/ Probation
- History of pregnancy or child birth
- Knows someone who has had sex for drugs, shelter, goods, or money.
- Lack of permanency – No adult or mentor they trust in their life
- Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Questioning, Queer, Intersex (LGBTQQI)
- Low Attendance / Truancy
- Low self-esteem • Migrant workers
- Multiple incidents of running away
- Poor School Performance
- Suicidal thoughts
- Tattoos

II. Process for Screening and Identifying Commercial Sexual Exploitation

A. Phase 1: The following parties are participating in the WestCoast Children’s Clinic Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) pilot project. These parties are responsible for screening youth over the age of 10 to identify whether they have been commercially sexually exploited, are being commercially sexually exploited, or are at risk of becoming commercially sexually exploited:

- a) Child Welfare Services staff in the following units:
 - i. Assessment and Investigations
 - ii. Court and Family Drug Treatment Court
 - iii. Ongoing
 - iv. Transitional Services
 - v. Permanent Placement
- b) Probation Department
 - i. Juvenile Hall Intake Officers
- c) Alcohol, Drug, Mental Health Services
 - i. [RISE](#)¹ program clinicians

¹ RISE, will include females aged 10-19 and their families; specifically targeting our underserved African-American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino, Native American/Tribal, and the LGBTQ girls who are “at” and “in” risk of commercial sexual exploitation (sex trafficking) in each region of Santa Barbara County. This program is funded through a Mental Health Service Act grant.

- d) Noah's Anchorage Youth Shelter
 - i. Residential program clinicians
 - ii. Shelter staff

Phase II. Upon completion of the pilot phase, the parties named above, as well as additional Santa Barbara County organizations serving CSEC, will develop a plan to expand the use of the CSE-IT Screening Tool.

C. Protocol to Initiate Screening. The parties must screen for sexual exploitation under the following circumstances:

- a) Child Welfare Department:
 - i. All children age 10 and above who are:
 - a. Identified as possible CSEC at the hotline
 - b. Identified by investigations or ongoing staff as possible CSEC
 - c. In an open CWS case
 - d. Absent from placement
 - e. Chronically on the run
 - f. Living in the same home in which another child has been identified as CSEC
- b) Probation Department
 - i. Probation is the lead agency in screening and identifying youth at risk or victims of CSEC, domestic minor sex trafficking, or youth labor trafficking in open delinquency cases. Cases identified as at risk through the CSEC screening process will be staffed internally and referred to the CSEC Task Force.
- c) Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Services
 - i. County Mental Health providers conduct the initial screening, then recommend and coordinate trauma informed mental health services to youth identified as CSEC, domestic minor sex trafficking, or youth labor trafficking victims or youth identified as being at high risk for CSEC, domestic minor sex trafficking, or youth labor trafficking.
- d) Noah's Anchorage
 - i. Will screen all youth ages 10 and over in the shelter program. Screening of youth that may be open to CWS or Probation will be coordinated with those agencies to ensure that screenings are not duplicated.

D. Screening Tool.

The following parties are participating in the WestCoast Children's Clinic Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSF-IT) pilot project.

- a. Child Welfare Services
 - i. Assessment & Investigations Unit
 - ii. Ongoing Unit
 - iii. Permanency Unit
 - iv. Transitional Services Unit

- b. Probation Department
 - i. Juvenile Institution Officers
 - ii. Juvenile Probation Supervision
 - iii. Juvenile Court Intake Officers
 - iv. Probation Officer's assigned to: CSEC Court

- c. Mental Health Department
 - i. RISE Clinicians

- d. Noah's Anchorage
 - i. Shelter Staff

WestCoast Children's Clinic will provide training for the departments and community based agencies as noted above, who will be utilizing the Pilot Screening Tool. This screening tool will be used amongst local agencies to identify CSE or at-risk youth, and be utilized to inform and improve service delivery. The agencies that complete the tool will need to determine the level of risk the youth is at based on the number total from the questions that were answered by the screener. The screener at the agency can refer the youth to services in the community that will meet their needs or continue providing services for them. There are certain questions on the Screening Tool that if marked yes, will require an immediate Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR) to Child Welfare Services.

For Data Collection purposes, local Community Partners completing the Screening Tool will be asked to submit a copy of screenings, not resulting in a SCAR, to the Department of Social Services, who will track the data. DSS will be responsible for tracking all data that is collected by the individual stake holders. The youth's name must be redacted by the agency submitting the Screening Tool due to confidentiality. The information required for Data Collection will include: the age of the youth, gender, zip code in which they reside, risk level assessed, services provided, name of agencies the youth is referred, if the youth is identified as being a CSEC victim, and whether a SCAR is made to Child Welfare Services. These items will be available to document as an attachment to the Screening Tool.

The redacted copy of the Screening Tool for Data Collection will be sent via fax or mail to:

Mark S. Contois, MSW
CWS Division Chief, DSS
2125 S. Centerpointe Parkway
Santa Maria, CA 93455-1338
(805) 346-7418 (FAX)

III. Assessment

A. The above parties agree that an assessment of an exploited youth's needs and strengths must take place upon identification and on an ongoing basis. Further, the parties agree that it is in the youth's best interest to limit unnecessary and or duplicative assessments. Accordingly, the parties will coordinate to ensure that assessments are streamlined and limited when appropriate.

a) The following parties are responsible for assessing children and youth who been identified as victims of or at risk of commercial sexual exploitation:

- i. Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services
 1. Clinicians from the RISE program
 2. Clinicians assigned to Juvenile Hall
 3. Clinicians from the Children's Clinic

IV. First Responder Protocol

In addition to routine screening, CSEC may be identified through contact with law enforcement and other mandated reporters such as schools, medical facilities, youth shelters and clinics. The First Responder Protocol will serve to guide law enforcement, County agencies, and community-based partners on appropriate steps to take within the first 72 hours of interfacing with an indentified or suspected CSEC. The parties agree that children who are suspected or identified victims of sexual exploitation and where an imminent risk to safety is present, require an immediate crisis response within 2 hours and intensive services through the first 72 hours to stabilize them. As described in Section V., (Immediate Crisis MDT) of this MOU, law enforcement, CWS, and Probation will immediately consult on the appropriate responding agency or agencies for individual youth.

The goal of the First Responder Protocol is to immediately engage and stabilize the child and develop a safety plan that meets his/her needs in a coordinated manner, including;

- a) Responding to the child's location within 2 hours,
- b) Providing individual case-by-case collaboration with multiple child-serving agencies as needed,
- c) Engaging with youth and family/caregiver(s), if appropriate,
- d) Ensuring basic needs are met, such as food, shelter, and clothing,
- e) Assessing and addressing immediate medical needs,
- f) Advising on appropriate placement, and
- g) Transporting the child to designated placement.

Roles and Responsibilities: Each party will fulfill the following responsibilities as part of its First Responder role:

A. Law Enforcement

Law Enforcement Agencies in Santa Barbara County, including Sheriff, SBPD, LPC, and SMPD, will identify youth suspected or known to be commercially sexually exploited in a variety of circumstances, including patrol, conducting planned operations, or in the course of making an arrest.

As mandated reporters, law enforcement officers must report suspected child abuse, including commercial sexual exploitation, to the Child Protective Services Child Abuse Hotline (Welf. & Inst. Code § 300 (b)(2)).

B. Child Welfare Services

All CWS staff will receive training in the identification and assessment of youth who are, or are at risk of becoming, commercially sexually exploited.

CWS Hotline Staff Roles and Responsibilities:

- a) Receive calls regarding suspected abuse and neglect and follow internal protocols.
- b) Discern whether an allegations may involve commercial sexual exploitation,
- c) If suspected or confirmed commercially sexually exploited child:
 - i. Determine if child is in imminent danger, requiring an immediate response, or
 - ii. If a slower response is warranted
 - iii. Flag the referral as CSEC and enter the SB-CSEC Special Project Code in CWS/CMS
- d) Determine jurisdiction (CWS, Probation, or unknown):
 - i. Determine if there is current CWS involvement, e.g. open referral or dependency case.
- e) Determine if there is Probation involvement and/or open delinquency case when a CSEC youth has been identified after hours, by contacting the Juvenile Institution Officer, and/or local law enforcement.
- f) Based on determination of jurisdiction and whether or not Law Enforcement is involved, the referral will be processed as follows:
 - i. If the child is unknown to both CWS and Probation, and the child is in imminent danger, initiate internal CWS protocol for Immediate Response.
 - ii. If there is an open CWS case, follow internal protocols for referrals on open CWS cases
 - iii. If the child is under the jurisdiction of Probation, the Hotline or other designated CWS supervisor will contact the appropriate staff from Probation and the Law Enforcement Officer (if any). The purpose of this immediate consult is to provide relevant information across the first responder agencies to ensure that the youth's immediate safety needs are met by the most appropriate first responder agencies.
 - iv. If the Reporting Law Enforcement officer indicates that the child will be charged and taken to Juvenile Hall, CWS may open a 10 day referral, identify it as a CSEC high risk youth and consult with Probation during the investigation for appropriate screening.

CWS Assessment and Investigations Roles and Responsibilities:

- a) Respond to the child's location/designated area within 2 hours when:
 - i. The youth is not under the jurisdiction of any agency, is determined to be at imminent risk of harm, and there are allegations of commercial sexual exploitation.
 - ii. The youth is a dependent of the court pursuant to WIC 300, at imminent risk of harm, and there are allegations of commercial sexual exploitation
 - iii. When a CWS immediate response is determined necessary through consultation with first responder agencies (CWS, Probation, and/or LE and Victim Advocate)
 - iv. Safety concerns for the CWS worker have been addressed.

- b) Participate in the Immediate Crisis MDT (by phone or at designated area depending on situation) to:
 - i. Develop a safety plan
 - ii. Decide on a temporary placement, if needed,
 - iii. Transport the child to placement
 - iv. Determine the need and time frames for scheduling a medical evaluation and mental health evaluation

C. Probation Department

- Any minor booked into the Juvenile Hall is assessed during the admission process.
- Should the minor be determined to meet CSEC criteria based on either the booking charge, or admission investigation process, a Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR) will be completed.
- The SCAR will be forwarded to both Child Welfare Services and the appropriate Law Enforcement Agency having jurisdiction over the suspected CSEC matter.
- Should the minor require any medical or therapeutic services while detained which are not available in custody, Juvenile Hall Staff will ensure transportation to those services are provided.
- Probation will collaborate with other agencies to ensure a service plan is in place prior to releasing the minor from Juvenile Hall and consider the elements of the CSEC matter in determining whether the filing of a WIC 602 petition should be requested.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- a) Interface with CWS Hotline or designated staff to provide probation status information.
 - Follow internal protocols
 - Respond when possible and appropriate when the youth: comes within the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system pursuant to W&IC Section 602, et seq., or is dual-jurisdiction pursuant to W&IC Section 241.1 and Probation is the lead agency.
 - Request and participate in the Immediate Crisis Response MDT to:
 - Explore temporary placement
 - Transport the child to placement
 - Conduct a safety plan
 - Schedule a comprehensive medical/mental health evaluation
 - Provide intensive supervision and support for 72 hours

D. Public Health Department

- Provide a comprehensive medical evaluation for the identified exploited child within 72 hours of identification which should include, but is not limited to:
 - Coordinating appropriate responses and services to treat the victim
 - Providing information, services, and medication related to reproductive and sexual health, including access to contraceptives, HIV prophylaxis, and treatment for STIs/STDs to youth who have been sexually exploited

E. DA/Victim Witness (or other victim advocate first responder)

- Provide a CSEC-trained advocate or survivor-mentor for the child

- Respond within two hours, when possible
- Engage the child and build rapport
- Participate in the Immediate Crisis MDT to:
 - Explore and decide on temporary placement
 - Accompany the identified youth to placement
 - Conduct a safety plan
 - Schedule a comprehensive medical/mental health evaluation with the Department of Public Health
 - Provide intensive supervision and support

Engagement of the Youth

Recognizing that commercially sexually exploited children will often cycle through the stages of exploitation many times before they are able to maintain a life outside of exploitation and also recognizing that in order to be effective, interventions and services must be victim-centered. The CSEC Task Force and all identified members, to include any and all contracted services providers will take steps to engage the youth as a participant in his or her MDT meetings with the goal of identifying strengths and to best position to meet his or her needs in culturally sensitive and trauma informed ways. The CSEC Task Force and all identified members are committed to build rapport with the youth and encourage his or her participation in developing a safety plan and deciding on placement, as appropriate to age and development.

Multi-Disciplinary Response

- A. The parties agree to provide staff to participate in MDT meetings who have been trained in the prevention, identification or treatment of child abuse and neglect cases and who are qualified to provide a broad range of services related to child abuse and commercially sexually exploited children and those at risk for such exploitation. In order to sufficiently address a commercially sexually exploited child's needs from identification through ongoing stabilization, a three-tiered multidisciplinary response, as described below, may be employed. This approach includes:
 - i. Immediate Crisis MDT: which involves both a rapid response within 2 hours as well as intensive, ongoing support through the first 72 hours post-identification.²
 - ii. Initial MDT: Convening a team within 10 days to address the child's needs where immediate safety risks may not be present.³
 - iii. Ongoing MDT: Ongoing case planning and coordination to be scheduled based on individualized needs of child.
 - iv. Multi-Disciplinary Team Case Review: Case review to identify trends, gaps in the services, resolve issues raised by the individual MDTs, and serve as a consultant to case carrying staff as needed. The Steering Committee shall serve as the Multi-Disciplinary Team.
- B. The following parties agree to participate in the MDTs pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16524.7 and fulfill their responsibilities as defined in the MOU:
 1. Required:⁴

² Note that members of the team responding within the first 2 hours may vary from the members of the team responding throughout the first 72 hours. For instance a CWS social worker and Law Enforcement officer may respond within 2 hours when the youth needs placement, and a medical evaluation may be scheduled within 72 hours.

³ 10 days is the time from required to investigate allegations of child abuse and neglect that do not present imminent danger.

⁴ Note that not all required parties will need to participate in all tiers of the response

- a. Child Welfare Services
 - b. Probation
 - c. Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services
 - d. Public Health
2. The Steering Committee is responsible for identifying non-required parties, as appropriate, to serve on the four tiers of MDTs. Together, the agencies represented on the Steering Committee will determine whether to include additional parties and which to include in order to most effectively meet the unique needs of the child. Non-required parties, may include, but are not limited to the following:
- a. Youth
 - b. Caregiver/placement provider
 - c. Children's Dependency Attorney
 - d. Victim Advocate
 - e. Public Defender
 - f. Law enforcement
 - g. Education provider/Foster Youth Liaison
 - h. Mental Health Provider
 - i. Survivor Advocate or mentor
 - j. Legal service providers
 - k. Court Appointed Special Advocates

C. Immediate Crisis MDT

The purpose of the Immediate Crisis MDT is to address the immediate safety and placement needs of the child.

1. The following circumstances require in Immediate Consult MDT by the parties below:
 - a. An immediate Consult MDT shall be convened by phone or in person within 2 (or 24 hours when a high risk youth has been identified in the following circumstances:
 - b. Youth leaves, is missing, runs away, or is otherwise absent from placement/home/shelter
 - c. Youth's placement changes
 - d. A new issue emerges in child's life
 - e. Child's service needs change, including preparation for step-down to a lower level of care
 - f. Youth prepares to testify in court case against exploiter
 - g. Youth's behavioral health services needs change, including improvement or need for hospitalization
 - h. Contact with Law Enforcement
 - i. Violation of Probation
 - j. Change in court disposition
 - k. 90 days prior to dismissal of dependency or completion of probation terms
 - l. A member of the MDT identifies a need requiring a case review or other response
2. The following agencies will participate in the Immediate Consult MDT
 - a. Child Welfare Services
 - b. Probation Department
 - c. Mental Health Department

d. Victim Witness

D. Initial Multidisciplinary Team

Not all children who are suspected or identified victims of sexual exploitation or trafficking will be in imminent danger and require an Immediate Crisis response. For these non-urgent situations, the parties agree to coordinate and participate in an Initial MDT.

1. The initial MDT is a team of individuals connected to the child's life. The MDT will meaningfully involve the youth in planning and decision-making. The purpose of the MDT is to plan for the child's placement, safety, and ongoing service needs. The initial MDT will:
 - a. Assemble within 10 days,
 - b. Orient the youth and family to the multidisciplinary teaming approach,
 - c. Provide individual case-by-case collaboration with multiple child-serving agencies,
 - d. Assess and address the child's short and long-term needs,
 - e. Develop and coordinate a service plan
 - f. Develop a safety plan with the parent/guardian/caregiver that addresses the following:
 - i. Potential safety risks for the youth, the family, and/or providers,
 - ii. Identifying trauma triggers that may cause youth to engage in unsafe behavior,
 - iii. Identifying coping skills the youth can use to de-escalate,
 - iv. Actions team members will take to prevent triggers from occurring,
 - v. Documenting responsibilities of team members in the event a youth exhibits unsafe behavior (e.g. if a youth is missing from placement, the parent/care provider will notify law enforcement and the social worker and the advocate and social worker will text the youth to maintain communication).
2. An Initial MDT is an appropriate response when there is not an immediate safety risk, but when an adult suspects or identifies that a youth is commercially sexually exploited.

E. Ongoing Multidisciplinary Team

The parties agree that children who are identified victims of sexual exploitation or trafficking require ongoing multidisciplinary team support to monitor the youth and ensure his/her needs are adequately addressed.

1. Individualized Ongoing MDTs will be held with each youth identified as commercially sexually exploited to monitor and support the youth and his/her family as the youth stabilizes. During the Ongoing MDT, members will review the case plan and safety plan, and amend as needed.
2. In addition to regularly scheduled Ongoing MDTs, a meeting should be called when any of the following circumstances or events occur:
 - a. The youth leaves, is missing, runs away, or is otherwise absent from placement/home/shelter,

- b. The youth's placement changes,
- c. The youth is preparing to testify in court case against exploiter/purchaser,
- d. The youth's behavioral health services needs change,
- e. A change in Court disposition,
- f. A member of the MDT identifies a need requiring case plan review or other response.

V. Amendment to Add Parties to the MOU

The Steering Committee may invite other parties, agencies or entities to participate in this MOU. Such new parties, agencies or entities shall execute a signature page to this MOU in the same manner as original signatories.

VI. Termination

Any party may terminate this MOU without penalty at any time but will attempt to provide thirty (30) calendar days' written notice. Notice shall be deemed served on the date of mailing to the following address:

Devin Drake
Deputy Director
Child Welfare Services
2125 S. Centerpointe Parkway
Santa Maria, CA 93455

VII. Signatures in Counterpart

The parties agree that separate copies of this MOU may be signed by each of the parties, and this MOU will have the same force and effect as if the original had been signed by all the parties.

Wherefore, the parties hereto have the executed the MOU in the County of Santa Barbara, California and this MOU shall be continuous until terminated by the Santa Barbara County CSEC Steering Committee.

VIII. Signatures by Department Heads or Authorized Designees:

Dated: _____ By: _____
Daniel Nielson, Director
Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services

Dated: _____ By: _____
Guadalupe Rabago, Chief Probation Officer
Santa Barbara County Probation Department

Dated: _____ By: _____
Alice Gleghorn, Ph.D., Director
Santa Barbara County Alcohol, Drug, and
Mental Health Services

Dated: _____ By: _____
Arthur A. Garcia, Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara County Presiding Judge

Dated: _____ By: _____
Dr. Takashi Wada, Director
Santa Barbara County Public Health Department

Dated: _____ By: _____
Joyce Dudley, District Attorney
Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office

Dated: _____ By: _____
Bill Brown, Sheriff
Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

Santa Barbara County CSEC Interagency Protocol

Dated: _____

By: _____

Cam Sanchez, Chief
City of Santa Barbara Police Department

Dated: _____

By: _____

Patrick A. Walsh, Chief
Lompoc Police Department

Dated: _____

By: _____

Ralph Martin, Chief
City of Santa Maria Police Department

Dated: _____

By: _____

Elsa Granados, Executive Director
Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center

Dated: _____

By: _____

Shannon Chavez, Executive Director
North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center

Dated: _____

By: _____

Lynn Karlson, Executive Director
Noah's Anchorage Youth Shelter