

The County of Yuba

Health and Human Services Department



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jennifer Vasquez, Director
Tony Gordon, Deputy Director
Health and Human Services Department

SUBJECT: Approve Memorandum of Understanding for the Yuba County Response to Commercially Sexually Exploited Children/Youth (CSEC/Y) Protocol

DATE: October 24, 2023

NUMBER: 505/2023

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve the Yuba County Response to Commercially Sexually Exploited Children/Youth Protocol Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Yuba County Health and Human Services Department (YCHHSD) and the participating agencies as referenced in the MOU, and authorize the Chair to execute.

Background

The Commercially Sexually Exploited Children/Youth (CSEC/Y) Program is administered by the California State Department of Social Services pursuant to Senate Bill 855. CSEC/Y refers to those minors under the age of 18, identified to be victims, or at risk of becoming victims, of commercial sexual exploitation.

On August 27, 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved the original Yuba County CSEC/Y MOU, which established a multidisciplinary team approach to CSEC/Y case management, service planning, and provision of services. The MOU has been revised, in collaboration with the agencies involved, to include the current procedures to best serve the needs of children and youth who are at risk of or are victims of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). Participating agencies include Yuba County Child and Adult Protective Services (CAPS), Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH), Yuba County District Attorney's Office, Yuba County Victim Services, Yuba County Juvenile Court, Yuba County Counsel, Yuba County Public Defender, Yuba County Probation, Yuba County Sheriff's Department, Marysville Police Department, and Wheatland Police Department. These agencies agree to provide a uniform response for CSEC/Y and will assign personnel who have been trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of commercial sexual exploitation to engage any suspected commercially sexually exploited children and youth using best practice approaches.

Discussion

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 16524.8, this interagency protocol MOU establishes:

1. An internal response protocol delineating how individual agencies will identify and respond to victims of CSE.
2. A communications framework to facilitate effective communication and collaborative service delivery among the parties to the MOU.
3. Training guidance on the identification of CSEC/Y, including the application of screening and assessment tools, and understanding the roles and responsibilities of each party under the MOU.

Key Principles to serving CSEC/Y include:

- Safety planning for both the child/youth and the service providers
- Collaboration across agencies
- Trust and relationship building to foster consistency
- Culturally competent and appropriate service provision
- Trauma-informed intervention

The expectation is that local agencies and community-based organizations will utilize the multidisciplinary approach to collectively provide a continuum of care to CSEC/Y, including trauma informed, safety planning, and harm reduction practices.

Committee Action:

The Human Services Committee was bypassed as this MOU is routine in nature and has no impact to General Funds.

Fiscal Impact:

- No funding commitment, administrative only, staff time only

Attachments

505/2023 - CSEC Protocol MOU