

Meeting Minutes November 19, 2014
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council of Monterey County

www.co.monterey.ca.us/dvcc

DSES, Ste. 302
1000 S. Main St.
Salinas, CA 93901

Members/Alternates present: L.DaSilva, V. Elmore, P. Diksa, S.Goldman, J.Empasis, Sr. B. Wasonga, A.Mohamad, C. Ferraro, N. Julian, E. Romero, V. Barnes.E.Lawson, M.Martinez, V.Barnes,

Others: J.Mendoza, R. Tanaguchi

Excused absences: J. Teeter, P. Patterson, J. Butz

1. **Call to order and introductions:** The meeting was called to order by L. DaSilva on behalf of S.Goldman at 3:35 PM.
2. **Amendments to the agenda:** None
3. **Approval of Minutes of October 2014:** This action was tabled due to no quorum.
4. **Public Comments and Oral Communications.** None.
5. **Education and information:**
Robert Taniguchi and Jennifer Mendoza (intern) from FCS gave a presentation on CSEC (Commercially Sexually Exploited Children).

The CA Child Welfare Council created a sub-committee to work on the issue statewide and to develop protocols. CASA, mental health, and others are on this committee. Child Welfare in the past stated that CSEC was not their responsibility and CSEC was considered to be 3rd Party Abuse. Now this has changed, and these children can be assisted. Taniguchi joined the committee because Monterey County has CSEC youth in the Foster Care System. Child Welfare legislation needs to designate funds to train foster parents, social workers, youth and to assist with interagency protocol development.

Monterey County has an in-care rate of 2.5/1000 and this is one of the lowest foster care rates in the state. The National Youth Law Center told the state that the Monterey County system is a good example of serving families. Taniguchi credits this in part to the multitude of community services that Monterey County has to offer.

Jennifer Mendoza shared a PowerPoint presentation. The Federal Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (2000) defines Trafficking, which is characterized by force, fraud, and coercion as a severe form of violence. Force is defined as against one's will. An example of Fraud would be a trafficker who says that he is a modeling agent, and coercion refers to methods that tie the victim to the exploiter. Coercion can be invisible but explains lingering ties to the exploiter. Like Stockholm Syndrome (trauma bond), the child begins to see the abuser as a protector.

If the victim is under the age of 18, force, fraud, and coercion are not necessary and the victim is instead psychologically manipulated to believe she is not being exploited. The children, like Prisoners of War, adapt to fear and terror.

It is possible for a CSEC victim to experience 9000 rapes a year. A CSEC child may be raped 25 times a day, 7 days a week, for a year. This amounts to 8,900 rapes annually. Also factored into the trauma are the adverse experiences at home, what happened after leaving home, in foster care, and multiple placements.

Statistics show that the age of the child, a history of child abuse, and running away are all risk factors. Fifty to eighty percent of CSEC children were known to the child welfare system. For girls, the age that they were contacted by an exploiter (within 48 hours of running) is 12 to 14. For boys, the age is 11-13. Exploiters position themselves at bus stations, malls, etc. and look for children who will comply with them.

Exploiters may bring in as much as \$650,000 a year with as few as 4 CSEC children.

The average life expectancy of an exploited child is 7 years. They die from AIDS and homicide. They have frequent and severe physical and emotional effects as well, such as sexually transmitted infection, addiction, PTSD, depression, and trauma bonds.

Governor Brown passed 6 bills to protect children: SB 955, 1165, 1388, 1585, 1510, and 1719.

Core Values around CSEC:

- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children are victims, not criminals
- Vicarious trauma consideration for workers
- Ask nothing from these children; treat them with dignity and respect
- It can take 20 attempts for the children to get out
- Relapse is common

Promising Services and Strategies include safety planning, collaboration, trust, cultural competence, trauma-informed care, survivor support.

Locally, a Santa Cruz-Monterey anti-CSEC coalition is meeting on December 9. Lauren DaSilva will report to the DVCC with further information. A tri-county committee is looking for additional funding to supplement their grant and is considering a Promotores model where people in the community will be recruited instead of hiring more government workers who may not be trusted.

J. Empasis remarked that there are parallels with elder abuse, and not many resources to combat elder abuse.

6. Working Group Reports

- a. **Executive Committee:** no report
- b. **Membership Committee:** No report.
- c. **Batterer Intervention:** No report.
- d. **Victim Services:** No report.

- e. **Medical Services:** No report.
- f. **Conference: Virtual Family Justice:** The committee has not met recently, and is currently on hold, in creation phase.
- g. **Education:** No report
- 7. **OVW Steering Committee:** C. Ferraro reported that M. McMills has resigned and re-located to another area
- 8. **Action items:** none
- 9. **New Business:** none
- 10. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Fill vacancies:** There are still vacancies for District 1, Commission on the Status of Women and Latino Network.
- 11. **Information Sharing/Discussion:**
 - a. **Dedicated DV court:** S. Goldman read the council Presiding Judge Anderson's response to the DVCC's letter regarding upcoming changes in the court system that would do away with a dedicated DV court. Her mailing address was provided to interested agencies who wished to respond by writing a letter.
 - b. **Correspondence:** None.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 28, 2014, AT 3:30 PM IN SUITE 302