

# Protecting Children: The Role of Schools in CSEC Prevention and Intervention

Presenter:

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# Background

- **Grossmont Union High School District- 20,000 students (9th-12th)**
- **Nine Comprehensive; One Alternative Education Site**
- **53% White; 47% Latino, African American, Asian, Filipino, Pacific Islander and Native American**
- **Approximately 29% Free and Reduced Lunch (Some Campuses as high as 50%)**
- **Eastern Portion of San Diego County**
- **Recipient of a Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant in 2007**

# Information Sharing Across Systems

- 2009- 7 School Districts, Probation Department, 3 Law Enforcement Agencies, Child Welfare and 1 Non Profit Service Provider Signed an Information Sharing Agreement
- “Rose”-16 year old ; chronic runaway; foster youth, probation for previous prostitution charges. “Rose” taught us what was happening on our campuses
- Looked to others (Dept. of Ed, CDE, other districts) for answer..... found few
- Created a Community of Practice with Key Partners to find answers

# Three Levels of Victimization

## ∅ Party Crews

Still in school, beginning of the recruitment

## ∅ Campus and Neighborhood Exploitation

Still in school, active truancy, decline in academic performance

## ∅ Completely in “The Life”

No longer attending school, runaway, may also be on the track and/or circuit

# Pimps

- All ages and both genders
- Prey on schools
- Most vulnerable students are intentionally targeted (SPED, foster, homeless, etc)
- Recruitment on and off campus
- Cell phones and social media are most often used communication and
- Send students to school for the sole purpose of recruiting other students

# Steps of Action

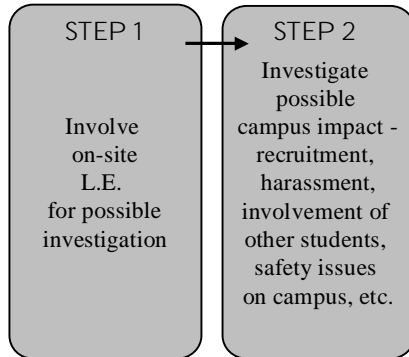
- Ø Created a Community of Practice
- Ø Educated Across Systems
- Ø Shared Perspectives and Information
- Ø Multi-disciplinary CSEC Training- GEMS (Girls Educational & Mentoring Services)
- Ø Developed School Staff Training
- Ø Identified and Developed Additional Partners to provide Services
- Ø Co-developed a Protocol
- Ø Working to Expand the Protocol Adoption Across all School Districts in San Diego County



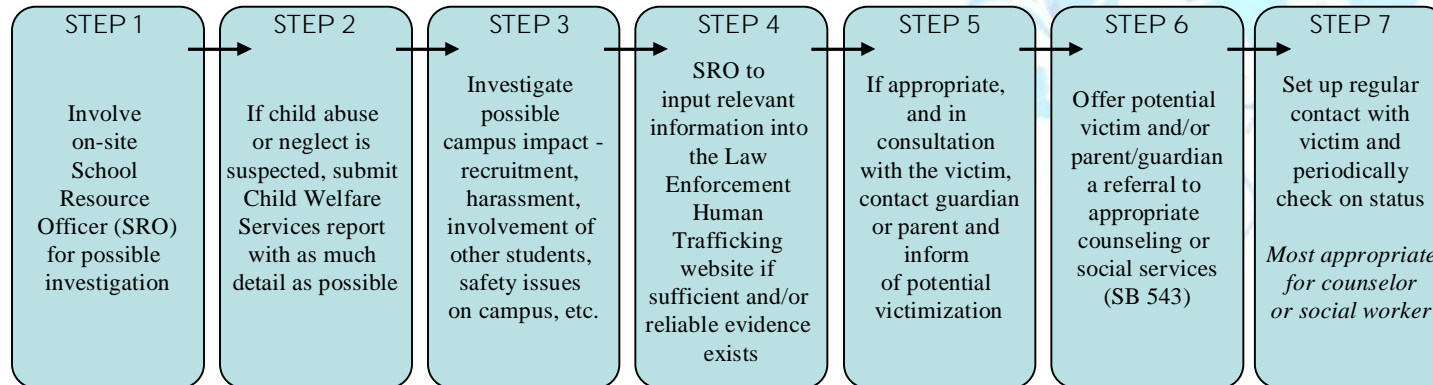
# Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

## PROTOCOL

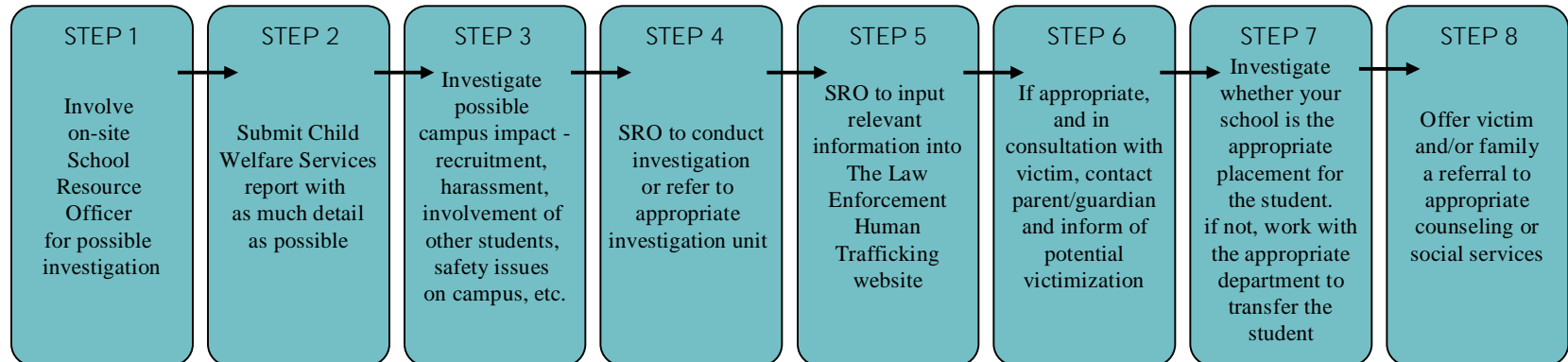
SUSPECTED RECRUITMENT OR ACTUAL EXPLOITATION BY STUDENT



SUSPECTED VICTIM OF CSEC/HUMAN TRAFFICKING



CONFIRMED VICTIM OF CSEC/HUMAN TRAFFICKING



# How Schools Should Respond

- Ø Train all school personnel on CSEC and warning signs
- Ø Implement and enforce a policy for reporting child exploitation
- Ø Train counselors/social workers on how to work with CSEC victims
- Ø Establish protocols for school computer and cell phone use
- Ø Offer comprehensive, developmentally appropriate prevention curriculum



# How Schools Should Respond

- Ø Assess the campus structure and take every possible step to make it safer for children
- Ø Make certain campus security is in place
- Ø Train attendance clerks, nurse, special education staff, etc. to be on the alert
- Ø Partner with law enforcement, CWS, etc.

# For More Information:

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# How Schools Should Respond

## **Increase Protective Factors:**

- Ø School attendance & engagement**
- Ø Availability of caring and appropriate persons**
- Ø Early intervention and prevention**
- Ø Readily available drop-in centers/shelters**







# How School Should Respond

- Ø Creative and supportive outreach
- Ø An aware and informed community, across all systems
- Ø Coordinated community response
- Ø Restorative and transformative justice at all levels