

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

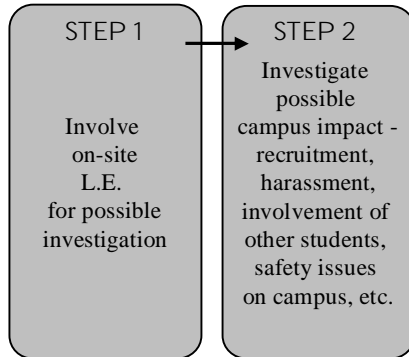
- Ø Created a Community of Practice
- Ø Educated Across Systems
- Ø Shared Perspectives and Information
- Ø Multi-disciplinary CSEC Training- GEMS (Girls Educational & Mentoring Services)
- Ø Developed School Staff Training
- Ø Identified and Developed Additional Partners to provide Services
- Ø Co-developed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



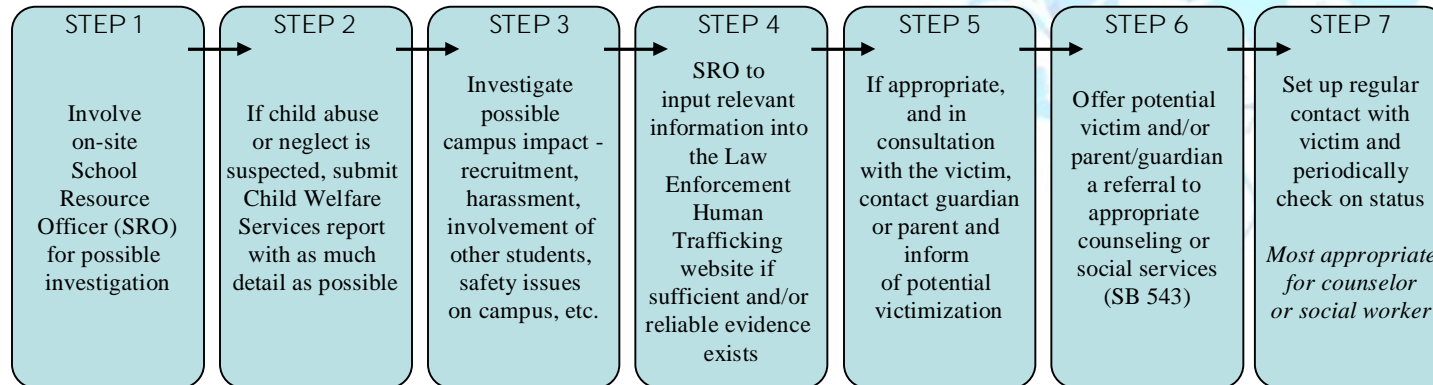
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

PROTOCOL

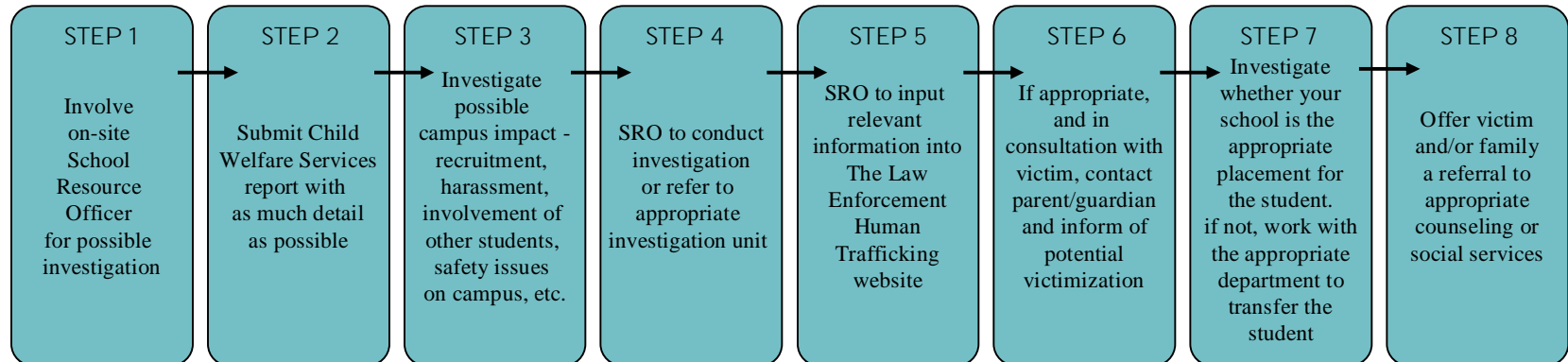
SUSPECTED RECRUITMENT OR ACTUAL EXPLOITATION BY STUDENT



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