



Multnomah County: Community Response to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

Purpose: Collaborate as community partners to create a coordinated community response to the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). We will create an action plan that will help us meet or exceed the goals of our CSEC 3-year grant awarded by OJJDP.

What Did We Accomplish?

- Multnomah County CSEC Steering Committee was recognized by the National Association of Counties (NACo) for implementing innovative county government programs to better serve area residents.
- In September 2011 a training team presented two sessions at the national Prostitution Conference. A representative from New Options for Women, Portland Police and the District Attorney's office discussed their collaborative response to adult women who are prostituted. Joined by the CSEC Collaboration Specialist this group discussed efforts to create a coordinated community response to CSEC in Multnomah County.
- Developed a partnership with Burgerville, a northwest family restaurant to provide meal cards to be used by officers and advocates when meeting with victims of sex trafficking.
- In December 2011 three people from our project attended the annual OJJDP conference.
- Networked with other professionals working to address CSEC. Multnomah County convened a monthly teleconference. Groups or individuals working to create large scale system change to improve outcomes for victims of CSEC are invited to participate. The first call included representatives from Las Vegas - NV, Orange County – CA, Alameda County – CA and Multnomah County -OR.
- Multnomah County was invited by neighboring Clackamas County to offer two sessions of training and numerous technical assistance sessions to this group of governmental and community program staff as they craft their community's response to CSEC.

For more information, please visit our website:

<http://web.multco.us/dcj-juvenile/csec>

Working Towards Our Goals:

Goal #1: Recognize exploited youth and youth at risk for exploitation:

- During this reporting period 12 training sessions were offered and a total of 500 people were trained. The total number of people trained since June 2010 exceeds 6200.
- Provided a CSEC awareness training for a faith based group called 11:45. This group includes 200+ people, primarily from the African American community.

Goal #2: Effectively investigate and prosecute cases against adults who exploit children and youth:

- Under the leadership of Janus Youth Programs, Juvenile Justice and the Portland Police Bureau developed a 2-side, laminated card for police to reference when they are dealing with juvenile issues including CSEC.
- The Senior District Attorney and County Commissioner McKeel convened a workgroup to review and update local child abuse protocols to include responding to victims of CSEC.

Goal #3: Intervene appropriately with and compassionately serve victims, including providing essential services:

- A group of service providers met and discussed collaboration to improve services for people who have sexually exploited as they transition from being children and become adults.
- In August 2011 the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners allocated one time funds of \$258,000 to be used to create a new residential option for victims of CSEC. In December 2011 Janus Youth programs opened Oregon's first residential program for this population.





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Our Challenges Ahead:

We continue to work in the following areas to strengthen our collaborative effort:

- Building trust and having open communication across programs with different missions and mandates who are all working to support victims of CSEC.
- Providing meaningful and appropriate engagement options for community member in response to CSEC. Develop an active workgroup is addressing this issue.
- Addressing the issue of how will we sustain this work once the grant goes away. The Executive Team and Steering Committee will work to answer this question.
- Including representation of communities of color and diversity at all levels of this work.
- Developing concrete actions to ensure that we meet the goal to effectively investigate and prosecute cases against adults who exploit children and youth.

Looking Ahead Six Months:

The following activities are planned between January 1 and August 30, 2012:

Upcoming CSEC Activities

Train school resource officers from the four county area to recognize and respond to CSEC victims and perpetrators within the school setting.

Provide training to local and national audiences on how to create a coordinated community response to CSEC.

Seek funding to maintain and expand programs and services related to CSEC.

Create a plan for DCJ adult & juvenile programs to address training, protocols & resource allocation in response to CSEC.

Explore the development of a danger assessment/intake tool to use with victims of CSEC.

Review current Multnomah County Child Abuse Protocols to better address victims of CSEC.

Keep doing the things that work!

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

PLEASE CONTACT:

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IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS OR WANTS SUPPORT PLEASE CONTACT:

- National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-3737-888 for help 24 hours a day, in six languages
- SARC hotline 1-888-640-5311
- Lifeworks NW 503-710-1513

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