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Runaway Youth & Human Trafficking Awareness

**Multidisciplinary Approaches
to End Homelessness**

A Continuum of Care Division Webinar Series

Please sign in by typing your full name, title, and organization into the webinar chat box.

About the Webinar Series

PURPOSE

These Webinars provide an opportunity to engage with local and regional experts on best practices, advocacy tools and resources available to prevent and end homelessness.

RECORDED WEBINARS

After the live webinar has taken place, the recording will be added to our website.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

We are working on securing speakers for future webinars and would love to feature you or your agency.

Email CoC@rivco.org if interested.

Please sign in by typing your full name, title, and organization into the webinar chat box.

Today's Agenda

1:00 - 1:10 PM	Welcome	HWS - Continuum of Care Deputy Director	Tanya Torno
1:10 - 1:50 PM	Guest Presenter	Riverside County Department of Public Social Services -Children Service's Division Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Program	Krystal Elliot Administrative Services Analyst
1:50 - 2:00 PM	Q&A: Please type your questions in the chat box. We will answer as many questions as possible at the end of the webinar.		

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Runaway Youth and the CSEC Connection

Human Trafficking/Sexual Exploitation



Human Trafficking of children is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision of obtaining of a child for labor or sexual exploitation through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Sex trafficking does not require that there be force, fraud, or coercion if the victim is under 18 years of age.

- ✓ Child Sex Trafficking
- ✓ Child pornography (CSAM)
- ✓ Sexting
- ✓ Sextortion
- ✓ On-line live performance
- ✓ Child sex tourism

All
Forms of
CSEC

Force, Fraud, and Coercion

FORCE

Beating/Slapping

Beating with Objects (bat, tools, chains, belts, hangers, canes, cords)

Burning

Sexual Assault

Rape/Gang Rape

Physical Confinement

Torture Practices

Seasoning/Initiation

FRAUD

False promises

Deceitful enticing and affectionate behavior

Withholding wages

Lying about working conditions

Lying about the promise of “a better life”

Preying on desperation and poverty

Blackmail, extortion

COERCION

Threats of serious harm or restraint

Threatened abuse of legal process

Intimidation/Humiliation (Pimp circle)

Emotional Abuse

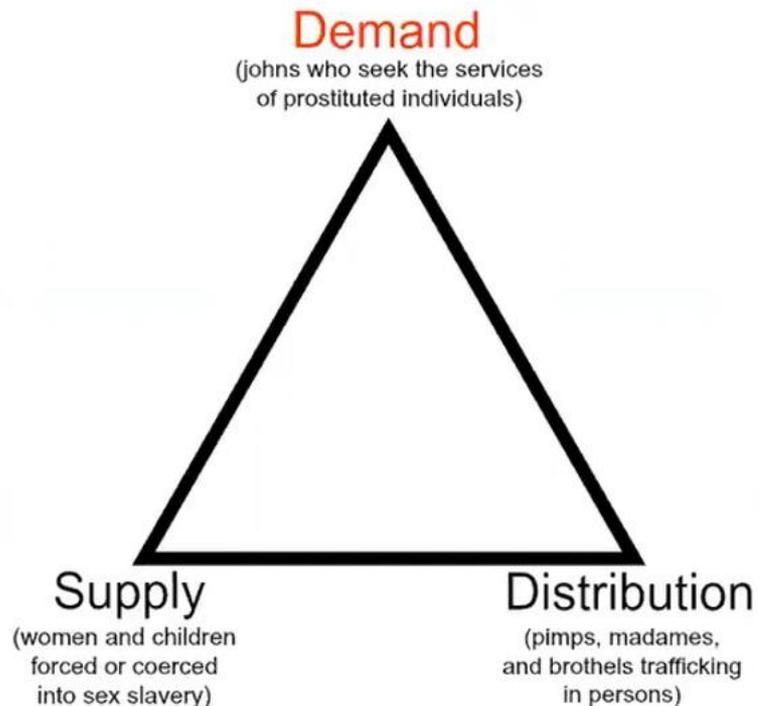
Climate of Fear

Controlling daily life

Creating dependency

Establishing quotas

Sex Trafficking involves a third party - often termed "trafficker" - in the exploitation, whether by profiting from it or by recruiting, transporting, or advertising the person being exploited.



So how does CSEC/Human Trafficking
connect with runaways and
homelessness?

In two separate studies, nearly all trafficked youth surveyed had experienced homelessness or significant housing instability, and their exploitation occurred while they were homeless.



Push Factors

CONNECTION

Pull Factors

External

to

Internal

System(s) practices and limitations (courts, DCYF)

Rules/expectations of caregiver/placement

- Phone/computer/internet
- Curfew
- Limits on contacts with peers or family

Attitude and behaviors of caregiver/placement staff

- Shame/disgust
- Punishment (lack of trauma informed responses)
- Disinterest; lack of trust or relationship
- Neglect/abuse in the home/placement

Environment in the home/placement

- Chaotic; lack of therapeutic structure
- Rigid; controlling or domineering
- Unrealistic developmental expectations
- Triggers in the home (substance use, unsafe people, physical conditions, lack of food/basic needs)

Individual impacts of trauma or mental health issues on cognitive, emotional and developmental assets

- Survival responses: fight, flight, freeze, appease, dissociate

Traffickers/associates in trafficking

- Lures of attention, money, safety, protection or a "better situation" than where they are currently
- Threats
- Coercion

Peer influence

Trauma bonding

Desire/need for economic strategy to obtain money or other tangible goods

Need for connection and belonging

Seeking stimulating, boundary-testing situations

Addiction and/or substance use (including nicotine)

CONNECTION



Meet an online predator in one a social media sites.

Spark a conversation They want to get to know the youth

Gaining Trust *Testing the Waters*



They want to meet the youth on another social media app.

They may want photos They may ask about their life

Sextortion or worse *Gaining Information*



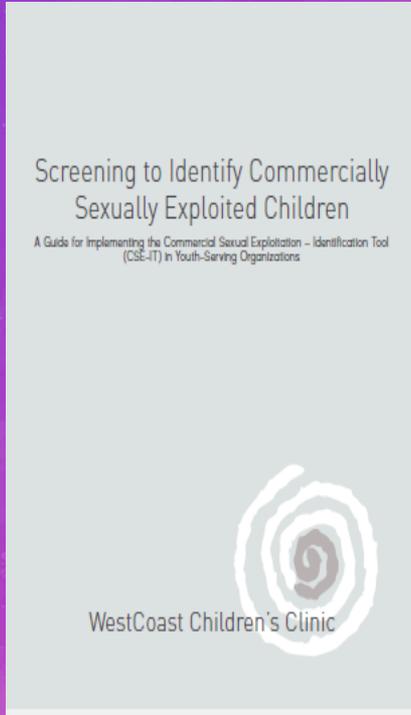
They ask to meet in person

The youth may find themselves being trafficked

Adding to Your Community Toolbox



CSE-IT (Commercial Sexual Exploitation – Identification Tool)

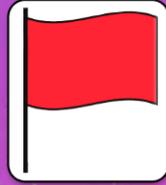


Why use a screening tool?

- Improve identification of victims which will expedite access to services and care
- Give truer prevalence estimates and cross-system communication regarding the number of exploited youth
- Facilitate data-driven decision-making and influence policymakers
- Ensure that multiple child-serving settings have the capacity to screen youth so there is no closed door for youth

CSEC At-Risk

CSEC At-Risk- minimum of *two (2)* of the following indicators:



- prior sexual trauma
- frequent AWOL/homeless
- solicitation charges
- probation or law enforcement involvement
- history of hard substance abuse
- branding tattoos
- frequent truancy
- relationship with much older adult
- unusual use of technology to research, advertise, or solicit sexual activity



CSE-IT Tool Level of Concern

No Concern: There is no reason to believe that the child is being sexually exploited, or there is not enough information to determine at this time. This rating does not state that sexual exploitation categorically does not exist, but indicates that based on the current information available, there is no reason to address sexual exploitation as a concern.

Possible Concern: The child may be at risk for sexual exploitation but there is either not enough information available for the current behaviors and circumstances do not clearly indicate the presence of exploitation.

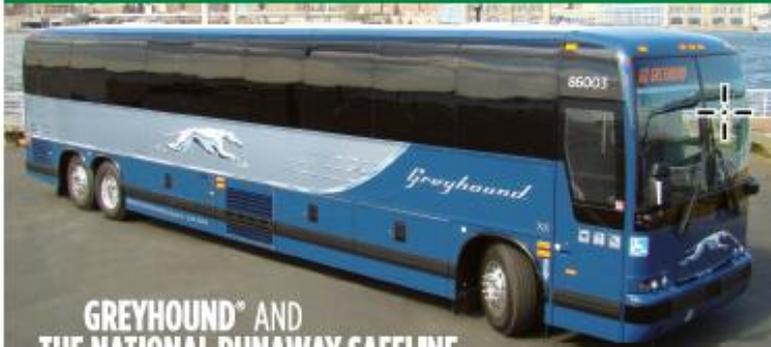
Clear Concern: There are numerous indicators present that suggest a high level of risk for sexual exploitation and should immediately be addressed by the assigned social worker in the form of an MDT or other services available to prevent further exploitation.

The Cool Aunt Series

[https://www.thecoolauntseries.com/
courses/riversidecounty](https://www.thecoolauntseries.com/courses/riversidecounty)



READY TO GO HOME?



**GREYHOUND® AND
THE NATIONAL RUNAWAY SAFELINE
CAN HELP.**

If you're a runaway, homeless, or exploited youth between the ages of 12 and 21 and you need help returning home or someone to talk to,



**CALL 1-800-RUNAWAY
CLICK 1800RUNAWAY.org
TEXT 66008**



Formally
Center Against
Sexual Assault



<https://form.jotform.com/220114804947150>

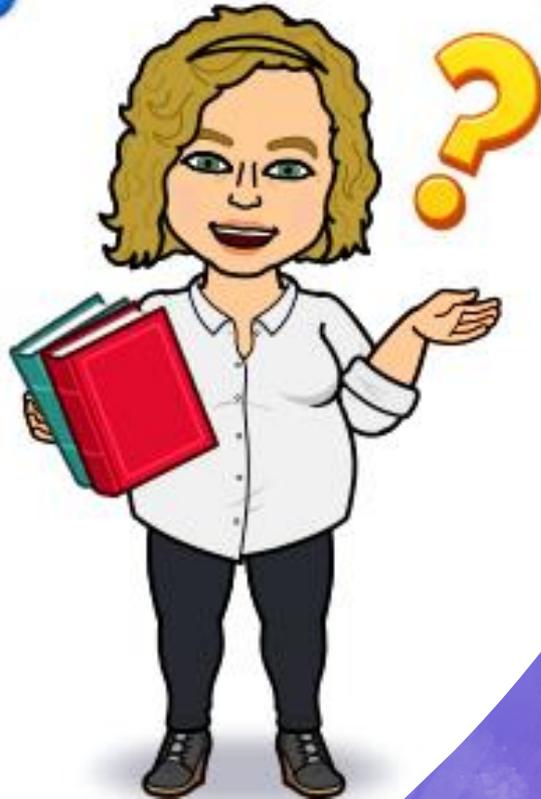


MillionKids

**Operation SafeHouse at
951-351-4418
OR Use the What'sUp?
SafeHouse APP**



Any Questions?

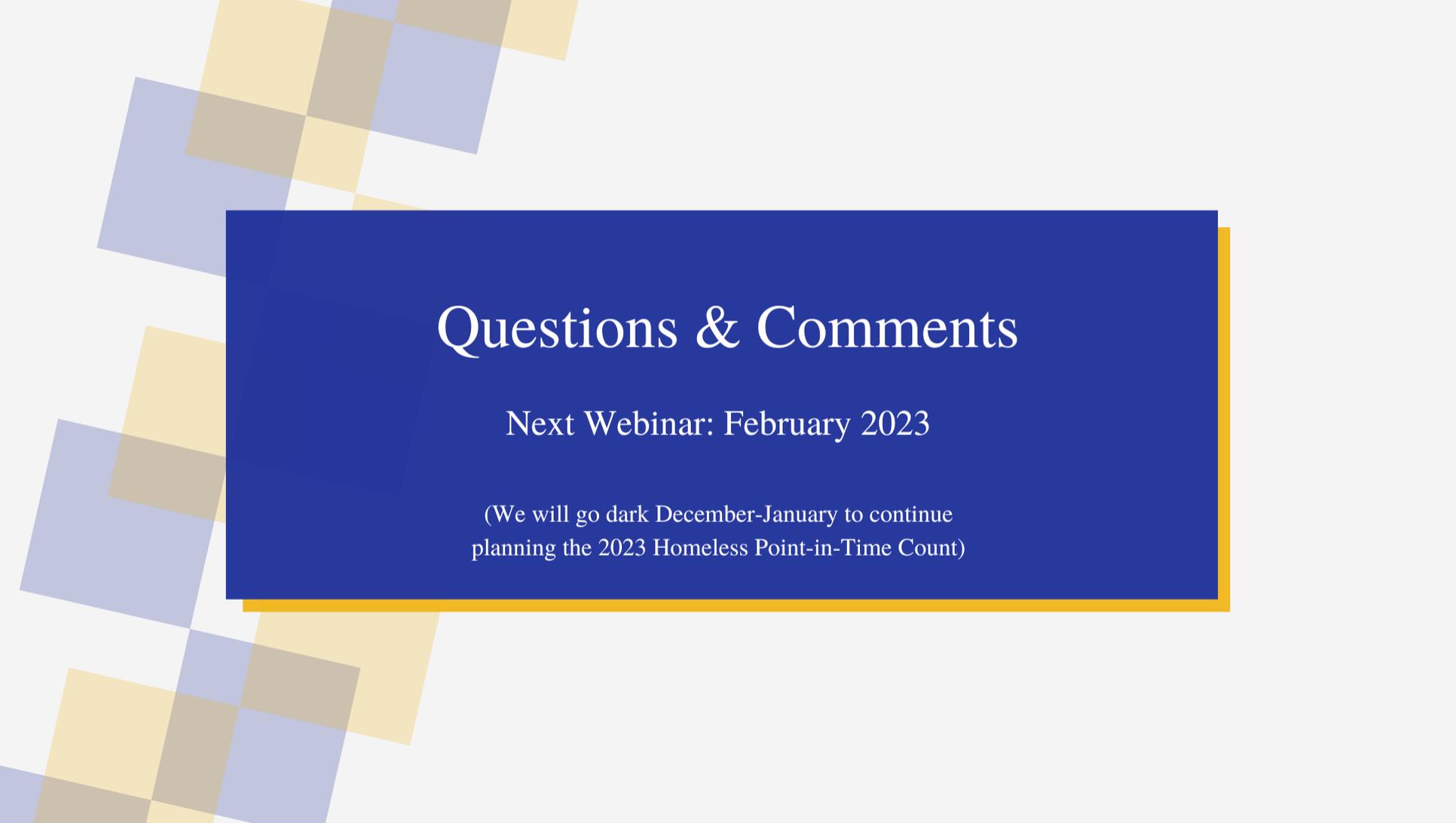


Krystal Elliott

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Questions & Comments

Next Webinar: February 2023

(We will go dark December-January to continue
planning the 2023 Homeless Point-in-Time Count)