

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # *B-2

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE August 11, 2015

CEO Concur with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Adopt a Resolution to Increase Awareness of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Issues and Affirm Stanislaus County's Commitment to Combatting CSEC Activities

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Adopt a resolution to affirm Stanislaus County's commitment to increase awareness of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) issues, to combat CSEC activities, and to work collaboratively with all County partners to identify, protect, and serve these vulnerable children and youth.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to Stanislaus County as a result of the adoption of this resolution.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2015-369

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa, Seconded by Supervisor DeMartini

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman Withrow

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST:


CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

Adopt a Resolution to Increase Awareness of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Issues and Affirm Stanislaus County's Commitment to Combatting CSEC Activities

Page 2

DISCUSSION:

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is a pressing national, state, and local issue. The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) estimates that 100,000 children in the United States are sold for sex each year. The FBI also reports three of the top 13 highest trafficking areas in the nation are located in California: San Francisco, Los Angeles, and the San Diego metropolitan areas.

Every day, in California, CSEC youth are transported through our counties and kept captive in varying cities or for specific events. Even with the current efforts by counties, law enforcement, and the courts to divert suspected exploited children, the need for intensive services tailored to minors who have been ensnared in the illegal sex trafficking trade remains critical.

The age when most youth are lured into CSEC activities for boys is between 11 and 13, and for girls it is between ages 12 to 14. The average life expectancy of an exploited child from the time they first enter CSEC activities is seven years (U.S. News & World Report, Oct. 16 2005, "Young Lives for Sale" by Bay Fang).

Federal Actions

The House of Representatives acted early this year in passing, by voice vote, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (H.R. 181). Adopted on January 27, 2015, the bill would provide competitive grants from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to state and local governments to improve the investigation and prosecution of child trafficking crimes, provide training to personnel to respond to victims, and to address victim's need for specialized services.

This year's Congressional activity on sex trafficking builds upon bipartisan work enacted into law last fall. The new law, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (H.R. 4980; P.L. 113-183) contains a number of federal, state, and local reporting requirements to be implemented over the next few years in order to better understand the breadth of the sex trafficking problem. Requirements due to be implemented this fall impact child welfare agencies and include; the development and implementation of protocols to locate children who have runaway or are missing from foster care; determine the child's experiences while absent from care; develop screening to determine if the child is a sex trafficking victim; and report the information to the federal government.

State Legislation

Governor Brown signed several CSEC bills into law last fall, including SB 955 (Chapter 712, Statutes of 2014) by Senator Holly Mitchell allowing courts to authorize wiretaps for the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking, and AB 1585 (Chapter 708, Statutes of 2014) by Assembly Member Luis Alejo to allow the courts to set aside a conviction of solicitation or prostitution for those who can prove he or she was a victim of human trafficking.

Adopt a Resolution to Increase Awareness of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Issues and Affirm Stanislaus County's Commitment to Combatting CSEC Activities

Page 3

SB 518, by Senator Mark Leno, would create clear guidelines for Trauma Recovery Center (TRC) services administered by the Victims Compensation & Government Claims Board (VCGCB) in California. By setting clear guidelines and bolstering training for new trauma recovery centers, this bill would ensure that victims of crime and trauma in California received the comprehensive and timely services they need in order to heal, and avoid negative economic consequences for themselves and their communities.

The TRC model has proven to be extremely successful, and since the grant program began, survivors of crime who received services through the TRC saw significant increases in health and wellness.

California Attorney General

Attorney General Kamala Harris led an Anti-Trafficking Working Group in 2012 and has created a resource center online for recognizing, treating, and prosecuting human trafficking, including minors. She also released the report "The State of Human Trafficking in California 2012" which identifies human trafficking as a top priority for her office.

In January 2015, the Attorney General announced the new Bureau of Children's Justice within the California Department of Justice (DOJ). The mission is to protect the rights of children and focus the attention and resources of law enforcement and policymakers on the importance of safeguarding every child so that they can meet their full potential. The Bureau will focus its enforcement and advocacy efforts on California's foster care, adoption, and juvenile justice system, including human trafficking of vulnerable youth.

California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

On May 28, 2015 the CSAC Board of Directors voted to approve a resolution to affirm their commitment to developing and supporting strategies to prevent, reduce and serve the victimized children of commercial sexual exploitation and work to eliminate sex trafficking in California.

County law enforcement, child welfare services, behavioral health, the courts, and community-based organizations all grapple with CSEC youth and report increasing numbers of exploited underage victims. On February 19, 2015, the CSAC Board of Directors approved the following new CSAC human services platform language as they recognized the urgency of this issue:

"Counties support efforts to build capacity within local child welfare agencies to serve child victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is an emerging national and statewide issue. In fact, three of the top ten highest trafficking areas in the nation are located in California: San Francisco, Los Angeles, and the San Diego metropolitan areas. Counties believe this growing and complex problem warrants immediate attention in the Golden State, including funding for prevention, intervention, and direct services through county child welfare services (CWS) agencies. Counties also

Adopt a Resolution to Increase Awareness of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Issues and Affirm Stanislaus County's Commitment to Combatting CSEC Activities

Page 4

support close cooperation on CSEC issues with law enforcement, the judiciary, and community-based organizations to ensure the best outcomes for child victims.”

Local Level

Stanislaus County departments including the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Community Services Agency, District Attorney, Health Services Agency, Probation Department, and Sheriff's Department, along with many community-based organizations have worked collaboratively to increase awareness of the threat of CSEC and to protect our children. The key service provider, Without Permission, is offering a free full day of training on Human Trafficking & Mind Control on Wednesday, August 12, 2015, at the Centre Plaza. This training will provide information on the Stanislaus County response to CSEC, including:

- Protocols
- Local Cases
- Collaboration

More information regarding the training on August 12, 2015, and CSEC may be found at www.withoutpermission.org.

By the resolution today, Stanislaus County affirms its commitment, in alignment with those of our Federal and State governments, elected officials, and CSAC, to working together to develop strategies to reduce and, hopefully, eliminate the incidence of minors caught in the sex trafficking trade in California.

POLICY ISSUES:

The recommended action supports the Board's priorities of A Safe Community and A Healthy Community by increasing awareness of a threat to our children, taking preventative action to protect our children, and providing assistance and support to our children who have been victimized.

STAFFING IMPACTS:

There are no staffing impacts associated with this item.

CONTACT PERSON:

Jody Hayes, Assistant Executive Officer, Chief Executive Office, 525-6333

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Date: August 11, 2015

2015-369

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa Seconded by Supervisor DeMartini
and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Monteith, DeMartini and Chairman Withrow
Noes: Supervisors: None
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None
Abstaining: Supervisor: None

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

Item # *B-2

AFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT TO PREVENTING COMMERCIAL SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN OUR COUNTY AND TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY
WITH ALL COUNTY PARTNERS TO IDENTIFY, PROTECT, AND SERVE
THESE VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WHEREAS, there is an epidemic of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in the State of California, and

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors recognizes that the commercial sexual exploitation of children is a pressing, national, state, and local issue, and

WHEREAS, the FBI estimates that 100,000 children in the United States are sold for sex each year, including child sex trafficking, child sex tourism, and child pornography, and

WHEREAS, three of the top 13 highest trafficking areas in the nation are located in California: San Francisco, Los Angeles, and the San Diego metropolitan areas, and

WHEREAS, county law enforcement, child welfare services, behavioral health, the courts, and community-based organizations report increasing numbers of exploited underage victims, and

WHEREAS, counties have led the effort to address the unique needs of CSEC youth, including working with law enforcement and the courts to divert suspected exploited children, and

WHEREAS, county law enforcement, child welfare services, behavioral health, the courts, and community-based organizations continue to grapple with identifying and assisting CSEC youth but have also made significant gains in meeting the unique needs of these traumatized children, and

WHEREAS, the need for intensive services tailored to minors who have been ensnared in the illegal sex trafficking trade remains critical,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby affirm Stanislaus County's commitment to developing and supporting strategies to prevent, reduce, and serve the victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children and work to eliminate sex trafficking in California.

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,
State of California



File No.

SAVE THE DATE

August 12th, 2015 Human Trafficking & Mind Control

"It is important to understand that destructive mind control can be determined when the overall effect of these four components promotes dependency and obedience to some leader or cause. It is not necessary for every single item on the list to be present. Mind controlled cult members can live in their own apartments, have nine-to-five jobs, be married with children, and still be unable to think for themselves and act independently."

*From chapter two of Releasing the Bonds:
Empowering People to Think for Themselves
© 2000 by Steven Hassan; published by Freedom of Mind Press,
Somerville MA*

The BITE Model

- I. Behavior Control
- II. Information Control
- III. Thought Control
- IV. Emotional Control



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
STEVEN HASSAN
FREEDOM OF MIND
RESOURCE CENTER

Steven Hassan and his associates are experts on alienation from family and friends, and situations that may involve pressure and mind control issues from individuals, groups and cults. Steve has created a unique method of specialized counseling, called the Strategic Interactive Approach (SIA), which offers profound respect and enhanced freedom of choice to individuals struggling with what may be mind control. The supportive, SIA approach is more respectful and has proven more effective than either exit counseling or deprogramming.

Free Full Day Training

Registration begins
July 15th
Space is limited
Centre Plaza - Lunch Included

Learn How Stanislaus County is Responding to Commercially Sexually Exploited Children

- Protocols
- Local Cases
- Expert Q&A Panel
- Collaborations

Who Should Attend

- Law Enforcement
- Social Services
- Education
- Foster Care Agencies
- Support Services

