

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

November 14, 2017

In order to protect youth from ongoing trauma and abuse and to improve the effectiveness of our intervention strategies, Los Angeles County (County) must develop processes to identify Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) as early as possible. Identification can occur in several different ways. For example, one youth may disclose to their probation officer or social worker with whom they have developed a relationship, while another may be identified by a health care provider when warning signs are revealed through a routine check-up. A youth might be identified by Parks and Recreation employee if they are homeless or engaging in sexual activity in a local park, or may seek help at a Fire station in the middle of the night while trying to flee a dangerous situation. The examples of how a youth can be identified are numerous, and involve employees not just from agencies intended to support children, such as DCFS and Probation, but from across all County agencies (and beyond). The County needs to ensure that all staff are trained with basic awareness and skills to identify and respond in the moment, if need be.

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MOTION

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The CSEC Integrated Leadership Team (ILT), an entity created by the Board of Supervisors (Board) to serve as a multi-departmental collaborative to address CSEC, has created an online CSEC training module. This 1 hour, 50 minute training module has been created in collaboration with Nola Brantley, a nationally-recognized trainer on trauma and CSEC; community-based organizations that serve CSEC victims; and CSEC survivors themselves. The training module addresses risks and vulnerabilities, the continuum of sexual abuse, pathways to entry, identification, exploiter tactics, and mandated reporting.

Through this training module, the County has the opportunity to improve early identification and effective intervention by ensuring that all County employees are trained to notice warning signs, feel comfortable asking the right questions, and know what steps to take to protect young people and connect them with vital services.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Department of Human Resources to add the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) training module to their online offerings, require LA County employees to participate in this training as part of their new employee orientation, and that Department heads report back to the Director of Personnel within 60 days on any barriers that might exist to rolling out the training Department-wide to current employees.

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JH:dg:gc